

GATCOM

Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee held on 22nd October, 2009.

Present: Dr. J. Godfrey (Chairman)

Mr. P. Barclay	- Environmental and Amenities Groups
Ms. G. Bartrip	- SEEDA
Mr. K. Blake	- Crawley Borough Council
Mr. T. Brock	- Burstow Parish Council
Mr. B. Ealey	- Gatwick Airline Operators' Committee
Mr. P. Hall	- Passenger Representative
Mr. C. Hersey	- Mid Sussex District Council
Mr. R. A. Jones	- Tandridge District Council
Mrs. E. Kitchen	- Horsham District Council
Mrs. I. Knox	- BATA
Mr. N. Maltby	- Mole Valley District Council
Dr. R. Olliver	- Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Ms. S. Parsons	- ABTA
Mr. P. Pledger	- South London Business
Mr. E. Redfern	- International Air Carriers' Association
Mrs. D. Ross-Tomlin	- Surrey County Council
Mr. J. Taylor	- CADIA
Mr. D. Whittington	- West Sussex County Council
Mr. J. Woodward-Nutt	- WHICH?
Mr. C. Yarwood	- Charlwood Parish Council

Also present:

Mr. A. Flower – Managing Director, Gatwick Airport Limited
Mr. A. McCallum – Head of Communications, Gatwick Airport Limited
Mr. J. Bradley – Surface Access Manager, Gatwick Airport Limited
Mrs. K. Norton – FEU, BAA Limited
Mr. F. Evans – Department for Transport
Mr. B. Smith – Deputy Honorary Secretary
Mrs. R. Howell – Technical Adviser
Mrs. P. Street – Assistant Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr. Golletz, Mr. Rice, and Mr. Thomas.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

54. The Chairman reported that since the last meeting he had attended, along with Mr. Maltby the Vice-Chairman and Mr. Hall, Chairman of the Passenger Advisory Group a visit to view the security measures in place at Gatwick and to discuss the partnership working between Gatwick Airport Limited and Sussex Police.

55. The Chairman also thanked Mr. Flower and his management team for keeping him briefed on the progress of the sale of the airport.

ANNUAL TOUR OF AIRPORT

56. The Chairman thanked Gatwick Airport Limited for hosting the tour of the airport that morning which was most informative and gave members a better understanding of the operation of the airport and the work being done to improve the passenger experience.

MINUTES

57. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July, 2009, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

Gatwick Station

58. Reference was made to minute nos. 7 and 8. Mr. Flower reported that he had spoken with Ian Croucher, Chief Executive of Network Rail to seek clarification on the progress made and the available funding to take forward the Gatwick Station improvement scheme. Network Rail had confirmed that there was still a funding gap of £13m and that there was no further scope to reduce the nature of the scheme in order to optimise the capacity gains. There were however other sources of funding that needed to be explored. The meeting with Network Rail referred to in minute 8 of the last meeting was due to be held in November.

Future Regulation of UK Airports – DfT Consultation

59. Mrs. Street referred to minute no. 12 and reported that on 13th October, Mr. Paul Clark M.P., Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport, announced that the Government will introduce as soon as parliamentary time allowed a new duty on the CAA to ensure that airports could finance their licensed activities which would sit as a supplementary duty to the CAA's primary duty. He also announced a package of licence conditions to introduce financial ring-fencing and a requirement for minimum creditworthiness. He had also confirmed that adequate protection for consumers was a priority and that the Government would consult further before the end of the year on additional measures to further improve the resilience of major airports. Mrs. Street advised that the Government would announce its decision on other elements of the future regulation proposals by the end of the year which will hopefully include a decision on the national consumer body for aviation.

GATCOM Steering Group Minutes

60. Resolved – That the draft minutes of the GATCOM Steering Group held on 1st October, 2009 be received and noted (copy attached to the signed minutes).

SALE OF GATWICK

61. Mr. Flower reported that BAA Ltd. had agreed to sell Gatwick Airport to Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) for £1.51 billion. The sale was subject to, among other things, EU merger regulation clearance but the completion of the sale was anticipated for early December 2009. He advised that a transition team from GIP would be put in place to work with Gatwick's executive management during the transition process.

62. The Chairman reported that he had on behalf of GATCOM issued a statement welcoming the news of the sale as it brought to an end a period of uncertainty for Gatwick Airport, its staff, business partners and stakeholders and that GATCOM looked forward to working closely with GIP to see the 'new' Gatwick develop. His statement was endorsed by the Committee. The Chairman hoped that representatives from GIP would attend a future meeting of GATCOM to set out their plans for Gatwick.

AIRPORT COMMENTARY

63. GATCOM received the Managing Director's commentary on activity at the airport since the date of the last meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Traffic Performance

64. Mr. Flower reported that the effects of the recession continued to be felt and at year end to date passenger numbers had fallen by 8.4% and Gatwick was now handling around 33 million passengers per annum (for the summer quarter passenger numbers fell by 3.4% compared to the same quarter the previous year).

Passenger Queuing Times

65. Members noted that passenger queuing times at check-in, security and immigration remained a key priority and that Gatwick Airport Limited continued to work with its business partners in enhancing passenger procedures. As regards security queuing times, Mr. Flower reported that earlier during the summer period the DfT had directed Gatwick to impose further security measures which had impacted on security queuing performance targets during July. Passenger processing times did however return to normal in early August.

Services for Persons with Reduced Mobility (PRMs)

66. GATCOM remained concerned about the poor levels of service PRMs experienced at Gatwick. Mr. Hall, Chairman of the Passenger Advisory Group (PAG), highlighted that this remained the top area for complaint and that 18 months into the contract the service for arriving passengers in particular was inefficient and needed addressing. Mr. Flower confirmed that Gatwick Airport Limited was working with the contractor and the airline community and was reviewing what was required. He would keep the PAG informed of the progress made.

Climate Change Report

67. Members were disappointed to note that no mention had been made of the publication of Gatwick's first Climate Change Report. The Chairman advised that the GATCOM Steering Group had considered the report at its last meeting when members had welcomed the publication of the report and that benchmark figures had now been provided against which Gatwick's progress in managing the airport's carbon footprint could be monitored. Mr. McCallum advised that the feedback received from stakeholders on how the report should be taken forward would be reviewed.

POLICING AT GATWICK

68. GATCOM received a presentation from Superintendent Jane Rhodes, Gatwick Commander, Sussex Police, on policing at Gatwick over the past year (copy of presentation attached to the signed minutes). She outlined the priorities for 2009/10 which embraced responding effectively to security and major incidents; preventing, deterring and detecting crime and anti-social behaviour; and working with partners and communities. She highlighted the performance achieved by the Gatwick Operations Team over the past 6 months. Members were pleased to learn that total crime at Gatwick had fallen by 10.8% compared with the previous year's figures and that satisfaction surveys revealed that many targets had been exceeded. Superintendent Rhodes also reported that she was leading for Sussex Police on planning for the Olympic Games at the local, regional and national level.

69. Reference was made to neighbourhood policing activities and the steps taken by the Sussex Police to ensure that areas of land around Gatwick remained secure. A member referred to a specific large area of land in the vicinity of Balcombe Road which had no locked access and enquired whether this had been discussed with the land owner concerned. Supt. Rhodes agreed to investigate this.

70. The Chairman thanked Superintendent Rhodes for her informative update.

PASSENGER ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)

71. GATCOM received the report from the Chairman of the Passenger Advisory Group in respect of activities of the PAG since the date of the last meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes). Members endorsed PAG's concerns about Southern's plans for the rolling stock to be used on the Gatwick Express service.

72. Members noted the number of capital projects PAG was now being invited to comment upon and expressed their thanks to PAG members for the dedication and commitment they gave to this important element of GATCOM's work.

73. Mr. Hall also reported that he had attended the emergency exercise undertaken at Gatwick on 7th October as an observer and that he had provided feedback on the event from the passenger perspective to Gatwick Airport Limited. Mr. McCallum advised that a report on the lessons learned would be given at the next meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group.

74. Resolved – That:

- (1) GATCOM writes to Southern to clarify franchise requirements for the rolling stock to be used and to express concern about the current plan to increase the use of 442 rolling stock;
- (2) GATCOM writes to the DfT to express concern about the proposal to use 442 rolling stock; and
- (3) GATCOM writes to Passenger Focus to draw attention to the potential problems associated with the use of 442 rolling stock, especially in terms of accessibility for PRMs.

GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2008 AND VERIFICATION REPORT BY EXTERNAL AUDITORS

75. GATCOM considered a report by the Technical Adviser on the outcome of the annual monitoring of Gatwick Airport Limited's commitments and legal obligations (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mrs. Howell advised that the annual monitoring for 2008 reported progress on delivery of the interim set of commitments and obligations from the 2001 legal agreement but the report had been produced and audited under the provisions of the 2008 legal agreement. She also advised that as part of the audit the consultants were asked to audit whether the action plans required under the terms of the new legal agreement were 'fit for purpose'. Members noted that the auditors had concluded that while the action plans were fit for purpose, the objectives/activities outlined in the action plans could be improved to be more challenging and SMARTer with targets that were specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound. Members were however pleased to note that the consultants found that majority of the commitments verified to date were on track to be achieved within the timeframes stipulated and that the statements of progress within the monitoring report were accurate.

76. Mrs. Howell also reported that the GATCOM Steering Group had considered a report on the progress made to date on delivering the actions for 2009 and that there were no major issues that needed to be referred to GATCOM for consideration.

CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING REPORT

77. GATCOM noted the report by Crawley Borough Council's Director for Environment and Housing on planning applications determined and outstanding in respect of Gatwick since the date of the last meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes).

78. Reference was made to the planning application for the extension to the North Terminal (Application no. CR/2009/0326/FUL). Crawley Borough Council advised that an Article 14 Direction had been issued by the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) requesting the Secretary of State to consider calling in the application for determination. This meant the Borough Council could not determine the application without the authority of the Secretary of State. The Borough Council would however inform GOSE that it was minded to grant permission subject to Gatwick Airport Limited entering into a section 106 agreement. Mr. Smith advised that in his opinion it was unlikely that the Secretary of State would call-in the application for determination as the implications of the development did not go wider than the local area.

DfT AIRCRAFT NOISE MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ANMAC)

79. Members received the summary produced by the DfT of the meeting of ANMAC held on 8th October, 2009 (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr. Jones, GATCOM's lead member on noise issues, drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the current night flights regime was due to conclude at the end of the 2012 summer season. The DfT would shortly commence preparatory work with a view to undertaking a formal consultation on the proposals for a new regime during 2010.

80. Mr. Evans, DfT, also highlighted that in its future work programme, ANMAC would consider a scoping paper by ERCD on environmental trade-offs between reducing aircraft emissions and aircraft noise and a presentation by Defra on the treatment of 'quiet areas' in terms of the Environmental Noise Directive noise action planning.

AIRCRAFT ARRIVALS AT GATWICK AIRPORT

Eurocontrol Report – Technical Review of Arrivals Procedures at Gatwick Airport

81. GATCOM considered the outcome of the independent study undertaken by Eurocontrol, commissioned by the DfT, together with the DfT's covering report (copies attached to the signed minutes). Mr. Evans informed members that following a request from GATCOM, ANMAC undertook a review of the arrivals procedure at Gatwick and had commissioned an independent technical review which was undertaken by Eurocontrol. Members were pleased to learn that Eurocontrol had found that the arrivals procedures operated at Gatwick represented best practice in comparison with other international airports in Europe and that the current procedures were fully compliant with UK civil aviation requirements and legislation. He also explained that Eurocontrol had been asked to look for further mitigation opportunities. However Eurocontrol had concluded that current airspace constraints meant there was little scope to improve the situation in the immediate future. The Department would keep the situation under review and monitor any emerging developments that might provide mitigation opportunities. The DfT's recommendations were endorsed.

82. The Chairman highlighted the considerable resource that had been devoted to investigating this matter and thanked the DfT for thoroughly investigating GATCOM's request and for the detailed analysis also undertaken by Gatwick Airport Limited. GATCOM agreed that as the investigation into this matter had now been concluded it was important to disseminate the results to the wider community.

Gatwick Airport and Over-flight of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

83. Members received the Technical Adviser's paper on the overflight of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and thanked Mrs. Howell for her informative paper (copy attached to the signed minutes). It was acknowledged that Gatwick was surrounded by AONBs in Surrey, Kent and Sussex which meant that, coupled with Government policy which focused on minimising overflight of more densely populated

areas, the overflight of AONBs could not be avoided. While members acknowledged this, there was a view that departing aircraft could be flown at higher altitudes over AONBs than at present and that this was an important factor particularly where the land was higher. Mr. Evans advised that the DfT was considering reviewing its guidance to the CAA on environmental considerations that need to be taken into account in the exercise of air navigation functions. In that context, he advised that the review would provide the opportunity for issues to be raised for formal consideration by the DfT. GATCOM felt therefore that the DfT should be asked to consider including reference to the terrain height as a factor that needed to be taken into account when considering the height at which departing aircraft should be flown over AONBs.

NOISE EXPOSURE CONTOURS FOR GATWICK AIRPORT 2008

84. Members received a report from the Technical Adviser summarising the results of the DfT's noise monitoring for a period of summer 2008 (copy attached to the signed minutes). GATCOM noted that the results of the noise monitoring showed a broadly similar noise exposure position to that of 2007.

85. Reference was made to Figure 6 of the ERCD report (attached to the technical adviser's report) which showed the departure traffic distributions by route. It was commented that it would be helpful if the number of aircraft was also given along with the percentage of flights. Mrs. Howell would endeavour to obtain the information from ERCD.

86. Resolved – That

- (1) the new noise monitoring information be noted;
- (2) Gatwick Airport Limited and the airlines operating from Gatwick be urged to increase the proportion of quieter aircraft using the airport; and
- (3) DfT be asked to ensure prompt publication of the Noise Exposure Contours for Gatwick Airport 2009.

FLIGHT EVALUATION UNIT (FEU) REPORT

87. GATCOM considered the quarterly report of the FEU together with the key messages arising from the recent meetings of the Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG) and the Ground Noise Committee (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mrs. Norton reported that during the last quarter Gatwick had operated a runway split of 58% on westerly routes and 42% on easterly routes due to weather conditions which was a significant change to the usual use of the runway.

88. Mrs. Norton also highlighted that three aircraft had been granted dispensations to operate in the night quota period due to a fault in the administration process by Airport Co-ordination Limited (ACL) which had incorrectly scheduled these aircraft in the NOTAM which resulted slots being allocated in contradiction of the current night flights regime. ACL had now addressed this with a new procedure.

GATWICK RAILWAY STATION

89. Members discussed the current position in respect of the improvement scheme for Gatwick Station. GATCOM remained extremely concerned about the future of the Gatwick Railway Station enhancement scheme as the third party contributions required to close the funding gap of £13 million had yet to be found. Ms. Bartrip advised that SEEDA played broker role in bringing together third party interests and reported that the Regional Transport Board (RTB) was to discuss the situation and way forward at its meeting the following day (23rd October). She explained that as there were multiple beneficiaries from the proposed enhancement to the station, the RTB was further considering those organisations that would directly benefit from the scheme from which appropriate contributions should be sought and whether there was a wider regional

benefit. If that proved to be the case, the RTB would consider contributing towards the scheme from the Regional Funding Allocation. The RTB would consider the matter again in January 2010.

90. GATCOM therefore urged all parties to inform the RTB of the collective support for the revised Gatwick Station scheme.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

91. GATCOM agreed the calendar of meetings for 2010/11 as follows:

Passenger Advisory Group

Wednesday 7th April, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 8th July, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

Wednesday 6th October, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 13th January, 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

GATCOM Steering Group

Thursday 1st April, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 1st July, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Thursday 30th September, 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

Thursday 6th January, 2011 at 10.00 a.m.

GATCOM

Thursday 22nd April, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 22nd July, 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 21st October, 2010 at 2.00 p.m. (N.B. Annual Tour of airport in morning)

Thursday 27th January, 2011 at 2.00 p.m.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

92. Members noted the next meetings of the Consultative Committee as follows: -

Passenger Advisory Group – date of meeting to be re-scheduled

GATCOM Steering Group – Thursday 7th January 2010 at 10.00 a.m.

GATCOM – Thursday 28th January 2010 at 2.00 p.m.

93. Members also noted that the next meetings of Gatwick Airport Limited's Ground Noise Committee and Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG) would take place on Thursday 3rd December, 2009 at 9.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. respectively.

Chairman