

GATWICK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Consultative Committee held on 25th July 2002.

Present:

Mr. P.W. Bryant (Chairman)

Mrs. C. Blackwell-Gibbs	-	Horley Town Council
Mr. G. Blundell-Pound	-	International Air Carriers Limited
Mr. T. Brock (substitute)	-	Burstow Parish Council
Mrs. H. Clack (substitute)	-	Surrey County Council
Dr. P. Ellis	-	British Air Transport Association
Mrs. K. Hammond	-	Surrey County Council
Mr. C. Hersey	-	Mid Sussex District Council
Ms. J. Houston	-	International Air Transport Association
Mr. G. Larcombe	-	Horley and District Chamber of Commerce
Mr. C.C. Lloyd	-	Crawley Borough Council
Mr. J. McCall	-	Environmental and Amenity Groups
Mr. I. Moore	-	ABTA
Mr. D. Murdoch	-	Crawley Borough Council
Mrs. M.E.P. Myland	-	Tandridge District Council
Lt. Col. Pemberton	-	West Sussex County Council
Mr. G. Pixley	-	Passenger Representative
Mrs. D.A. Ross-Tomlin	-	Reigate and Bansted Borough Council
Mr. V. Saunders	-	Rusper Parish Council
Mrs. H.M. Sewill	-	Charlwood Parish Council
Mr. A. Skudder	-	Crawley Parish Council
Mr. R. Thomas	-	East Sussex County Council
Mr. J. Woodward-Nutt	-	Consumers' Association

Also present:

Mr. R. Cato	-	Chairman & Managing Director, BAA Gatwick
Mrs. C. Nicholls	-	Communications Director, BAA Gatwick
Mr. T. Lockwood	-	Director of Planning and Environment, BAA Gatwick
Mr. P. Grindrod	-	Department for Transport
Dr. J. Godfrey	-	Deputy Honorary Secretary
Mrs. P. Street	-	Assistant Honorary Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr. D. Dewdney, Mr. P. Feltham, Mr. B. Humphreys, Mr R.A.Jones, Mrs. E. Kitchen, Mr. N. Maltby and Mrs. M. Richards.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

1. The membership of the Committee and its constitution and terms of reference were received and noted (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Chairman thanked all members of the Committee and substitutes for their contribution to the work of the Committee during the past year and welcomed the new members.
2. It was noted that Mr. V. Saunders represented Rusper Parish Council.

MINUTES

3. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th April, 2002, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

DAS Air

4. Reference was made to minute no. 116 and the progress BAA Gatwick had made with DAS Air regarding its QC4 operations, particularly during the night period. Mr. Cato reported that he was still in discussion with the carrier. DAS Air was hopeful that it would phase out the use of QC4 aircraft by 2006 but in the meantime, BAA Gatwick had asked them to come forward with ideas to help resolve the issue at an earlier date.

General Purposes Sub-Committee

5. Resolved - That the minutes of the special meeting of the General Purposes Sub-Committee held on 13th June, 2002, be received and noted (copy attached to the signed minutes).
6. Resolved – That the draft minutes of the General Purposes Sub-Committee held on 27th June, 2002, be received and noted (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Airport Related Car Parking Survey

7. Reference was made to minute no. 119 regarding the results of the airport related car parking survey commissioned by Surrey County Council. Mr. Lockwood advised that he was still awaiting the report of the results from Surrey County Council. The Committee urged Surrey County Council to produce the report at the earliest possible time.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

8. Resolved – That Mrs. Sewill be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

9. Resolved – That the following members be appointed to serve on the respective Sub-Committees and the Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group for the ensuing year. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio members of each of the Sub-Committees and of the Advisory Group.

General Purposes Sub-Committee

Mr. Bryant (Chairman)
Dr. Ellis (British Air Transport Association)
Mr. D.G. Dewdney (West Sussex County Council)
Ms. Houston (International Air Transport Association)
Mrs. Kitchen (Horsham District Council)
Mr Maltby (Mole Valley District Council)
Mr. McCall (Environmental and Amenity Groups)
Mr. Feltham (CADIA – Business Association for Sussex and Surrey)
Mr. Murdoch (Crawley Borough Council)
Mr. Pixley (Passenger Representative)
Mrs. Sampson (Surrey County Council)
Mrs. Sewill (Vice-Chairman)

Passenger Services Sub-Committee

Mr. Bryant, Mrs. Sewill, Mr. I. Moore and Mr Woodward-Nutt. It was also noted that the following passenger representatives serve on the Sub-Committee: Mr. Bone, Mrs Curle, Mr. N. Gibbs, Mr. P. Hall, Mrs. Langtry-White, Mrs. Marsh, Mr. Pixley (Chairman), Mr R. Saunders, Mrs. Vickers and a representative of the Air Transport Users' Council (when appointed).

Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group

Mr. Bryant, Mrs. Sewill, Mr. Dewdney, Mrs. Kitchen, and Mrs. Myland.

REGIONAL AIR SERVICE STUDIES

Regional Studies

10. The Committee received and noted a report by the Honorary Secretary giving details of a presentation given by the then DTLR to the Annual Meeting of Airport Consultative Committee Chairmen and Secretaries on 31st May, 2002 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Publication of SERAS

11. Mr. Cato informed the meeting that BAA plc welcomed the publication of the SERAS consultation document and that the Government was able to meet the summer deadline for the publication. The Committee noted that the Government would not be including in the White Paper any options for new runways at Gatwick, honouring the 1979 legal agreement between BAA plc and the local authorities.

12. Mr. Cato confirmed that BAA Gatwick was still fully committed to delivering the commitments in the Sustainable Development Strategy and its legal obligations to accommodate growth of the airport to around 40 million passengers per annum by 2008/09. BAA plc's recently published ten year Capital Investment Programme also set out major development projects for Gatwick that would maximise the use of existing

runway capacity over the decade. An examination of the various scenarios and implications for Gatwick of the SERAS options would however need to be undertaken, especially in respect of the traffic mix, as it could mean that some of the planned development would need to be refocused.

13. The Committee welcomed the Government's decision to honour the 1979 legal agreement in its consideration of the options for additional runway capacity in the South East. The Committee confirmed its support for the continued growth of the airport within the context of the Sustainable Development Strategy and related legal agreement and memorandum of understanding. It also confirmed its wish to work with BAA Gatwick to ensure the future success of the airport and its long term future as a successful one runway, two terminal international airport.

14. The airline representatives present at the meeting welcomed that fact that the Government had realised that the UK needed a globally competitive hub and that doing nothing was not an option. The absence of an option for Gatwick would however have implications for the airport. Members felt it important therefore that the Committee was apprised of the implications of the various scenarios for Gatwick at the earliest possible time. A seminar would, therefore, be arranged by BAA Gatwick and the Honorary Secretary before the next meeting of the General Purposes Sub-Committee.

15. In view of the fact that that no options for Gatwick featured in the consultation document, it was not proposed to ask the Department for Transport's (DfT) to be involved in any presentation to the Committee. It was still hoped that the DfT's proposed regional consultation events with stakeholders would still take place during the consultation process. Mr Grindrod advised that the dates for DfT events had not yet been confirmed.

16. The Chairman advised that a report on the SERAS consultation document would be presented to the General Purposes Sub-Committee on 3rd October, 2002 prior to consideration at the Consultative Committee meeting on 24th October.

AIRPORT COMMENTARY

17. The Committee received the Managing Director's commentary on activity at the airport since the date of the last meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr. Cato advised that passenger numbers were showing signs of recovery, with figures for June 2002 down by 8.6%, compared to the same period last year. There were positive signs for the future, in particular tour operators had reported good business for the summer holidays, although they had reduced capacity overall.

18. Mr. Cato also reported that airport recruitment had improved but there were also staff leaving as result of the downturn in traffic.

19. Reference was made to the possibility of a ground handler's strike at the airport. Mr. Cato advised that aviance's proposed strike action at Edinburgh had now been called off, but there was still a possibility of action being taken at Gatwick over the August bank holiday weekend.

BAA GATWICK'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE ON CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

20. The Committee considered a report by BAA Gatwick giving details of the impact on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy following the downturn in traffic (copy attached to the signed minutes). It was noted that the BAA growth forecasts made no assumptions as to the possibility of an additional runway in the South East being brought into use before 2012/2013. The implications of the SERAS options for Gatwick would therefore need to be carefully considered, especially the outcome of the forthcoming Aviation White Paper. Mr. Lockwood advised that, although there had been changes in the traffic characteristics and passenger mix at the airport since 11th September, it was not expected to make significant adjustments to the two land use concepts set out in the Sustainable Development Strategy. However, changes to the timing of some of the developments needed to be made and it could be that the size and specification for some of the buildings might be different from that previously foreseen. BAA Gatwick had yet to discuss with the local authorities its likely work programme and findings. The Committee would be kept informed of any changes made.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE GROUND RUN PEN AND HANGAR 7

21. The Committee received and noted a report by the Honorary Secretary giving details of the planning applications submitted by BAA Gatwick for the ground run pen (GRP) and replacement Hangar 7 (copy attached to the signed minutes). It was noted that both applications accorded with the commitments given in the Sustainable Development Strategy and legal agreement. It was also noted that the applications had a direct impact on the village of Charlwood and Mrs. Sewill asked if BAA Gatwick could keep Charlwood Parish Council involved in taking forward the details of the developments.

BAA GATWICK ANNUAL REPORTS

22. The Committee received from BAA Gatwick its recently published Sustainability Report, Transport Report and Flight Evaluation Report covering the period 2001/02. The Chairman informed the meeting that the General Purposes Sub-Committee would consider all the reports at its next meeting on 3rd October. Members were asked to forward their comments on the publications to the Honorary Secretary so they could be taken into account at the Sub-Committee meeting.

PASSENGER SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

23. Mr Pixley presented his report of the last meeting of the Passenger Services Sub-Committee (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr Pixley, on behalf of the Sub-Committee thanked Mr. Cato for the opportunity to discuss with him his vision for Gatwick. The Sub-Committee was also encouraged by the new Customer Service Strategy and looked forward to working with Liz Neighbour and her team in ensuring the successful delivery of the Strategy.

24. Mr Pixley also referred to the management of the peak summer traffic and the problems that had already been experienced, such as security queuing and baggage delivery, and hoped that BAA Gatwick would be able to manage the peak with the least problems as possible.

25. The Sub-Committee's concerns about the appointment of a fourth ground handler at Gatwick were noted. Mr. Cato advised that following meetings with a number of the airlines', it was clear that the airlines required another handling agent at the airport, which was in line with the EU Directive. BAA Gatwick was in the process of setting up a Ground Handler's Forum which would monitor performance in a similar way to the Flight Operators Performance Committee. This initiative was welcomed by the Committee.

REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT "FROM CRISIS TO CUTTING EDGE"

26. The Committee considered a report by the Honorary Secretary outlining the content of the Regional Transport Strategy Consultation Document published by the Regional Assembly (copy attached to the signed minutes). Members agreed with the suggested response in the report, in particular the need for the Regional Assembly to recognise that the scheme for Gatwick Railway Station should be regarded as a national priority rather than a sub-regional priority. This was essential if Gatwick was to fulfil its role as an international gateway and a major transport interchange.

27. Resolved - That the comments set out in the Honorary Secretary's report be submitted to the Regional Assembly as the Committee's response to the Regional Transport Strategy.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (SEEDA) - REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2002 CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

28. The Committee noted that, following consideration by the General Purposes Sub-Committee, a letter had been sent to SEEDA setting out the Committee's response to the consultation on the Regional Economic Strategy 2002 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

REVIEW OF PUBLIC SAFETY ZONE (PSZ) POLICY PUBLICATION OF CIRCULAR AND REDEFINITION OF ZONES

29. The Committee considered a report by the Honorary Secretary providing details of the publication by the DfT of Circular 1/2002 "Control of Development in Airport Public Safety Zones" and redefinition of the zones for Gatwick (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Committee was pleased to note that new transport infrastructure development was now considered for PSZ purposes as if it were residential, commercial or industrial development and should not be permitted within PSZs. As regards the redefined zones for Gatwick, Mrs Sewill pointed out that there was still no recognition of the height of Russ Hill.

AIRCRAFT NOISE MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ANMAC)

30. The Vice-Chairman reported on the last meeting of ANMAC which was held on 23rd July, 2002.

Night Noise Regime

31. Mrs Sewill first informed members that Mr Jamieson, Minister for Aviation, had in answer to a Parliamentary question, indicated that the Department was intending to start the consultation on the next night noise regime for the three BAA London airports before the end of the year. The consultation was likely to be a two stage process. The Chairman of ANMAC had advised that while the Aviation White Paper might have general comments on noise issues, the night noise review consultation was a separate and detailed matter.

EPNL Study

32. ANMAC considered the latest position on the EPNL Study which was examining whether the noise certification of aircraft tallied with the QC banding when aircraft were actually being operated. All the studies of noise (for both the winter and summer seasons) at Heathrow, Stansted and Gatwick were now completed. The Department would publish a technical report bringing together all the studies, but not necessarily drawing any conclusions, by November at the latest.

33. The aim of the study was to determine whether some aircraft were currently categorised in too low a QC band and it is becoming clear that this may well be the case for some aircraft. This would not only have commercial implications but also implications for the night noise quota if QC 2 aircraft became QC 4, or QC 4 aircraft became QC 8. Members noted the importance of the study.

Monitoring arrangements for departures and efficiency of monitors

34. ANMAC heard that track density plots confirmed that the monitors at Gatwick, for both runway directions, were efficient in detecting departing aircraft and that it was not necessary to have additional monitors.

Accuracy of NTK height and track data

35. Following a request by the airline representatives on ANMAC, a study on the accuracy of the NTK data using the radar information on board aircraft, had been undertaken. The Committee was pleased to note that this had revealed that the NTK data was accurate. As the study was of interest to the wider domain, a report would be published. Mrs Sewill hoped that it would be considered by the Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG).

FLIGHT EVALUATION UNIT COMMENTARY

36. 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 Group (NATMAG) meeting on 10th June, 2002 (copy attached to the signed copy of the minutes).

37. The Committee was pleased to note the improvement in aircraft achieving Continuous Descent Approach, both during the night quota hours and during the day time, compared with the previous year.

38. It was also noted that no interim analysis of the summer season's night movements had been included in the commentary as the usage of night slots and QC allowance during the first three months of the season was not representative of the season as whole due to the change in traffic mix at the airport and the timing of Easter. Slot and QC usage were however expected to fall within the DfT limits.

39. Mr. Lockwood also informed members that the noise contours for 2001 had now been published by the DfT and would be reported to the next meeting of the General Purposes Sub-Committee.

CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL, DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING REPORT

40. The Committee noted that Crawley Borough Council had not determined any planning applications in respect of Gatwick Airport since the date of the last meeting.

26TH ANNUAL MEETING OF AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND SECRETARIES

41. The Committee received and noted the minutes of the 26th Annual Meeting of Airport Consultative Committee Chairmen and Secretaries held at Gatwick on 31st May, 2002 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

42. Members also noted the Guidelines for Best Practice for Airport Consultative Committees which had been approved at the Annual Meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes). The guidelines would be sent to both the Government and the CAA so that they could be taken into consideration in the forthcoming Aviation White Paper.

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

43. The Committee noted the dates of the next meetings of the Committee and its Sub-Committees as listed below:

Passenger Services Sub-Committee – Tuesday, 3rd September, 2002 at 10.00 a.m.
General Purposes Sub-Committee - Thursday, 3rd October, 2002 at 10.00 a.m.
Consultative Committee – Thursday, 24th October, 2002 at 2.00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN