

GATCOM

Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee held on 29th January, 2009.

Present: Dr. J. Godfrey (Chairman)

Mr. W. Acraman (substitute)	-	West Sussex County Council
Mr. P. Barclay	-	Environmental and Amenities Groups
Mr. G. Blundell-Pound	-	International Air Carriers' Association
Mr. A. Brock (substitute)	-	Mid Sussex District Council
Mr. B. Ealey	-	Gatwick Airline Operators' Committee
Mr. K. Ferrin	-	Kent County Council
Mr. D. Golletz	-	SEEDA
Mr. N. Hague	-	Charlwood Parish Council
Mr. D. Hobbs (substitute)	-	Passenger Representative
Mr. M. Hudson (substitute)	-	London Chamber of Commerce
Mr. A. Jones	-	Tandridge District Council
Mrs. E. Kitchen	-	Horsham District Council
Ms I. Knox	-	British Air Transport Association
Mr. N. Maltby	-	Mole Valley District Council
Dr. R. Olliver	-	Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Mr. P. Pledger	-	South London Business
Mr. E. Redfern	-	ABTA
Mrs. D. Ross-Tomlin (substitute)	-	Surrey County Council
Mr. J. Taylor	-	CADIA
Mr. R. Thomas	-	East Sussex County Council
Mr. J. Woodward-Nutt	-	WHICH?

Also present:

Mr. A. Flower – Managing Director, BAA Gatwick
Mr. A. McCallum – Director of Communications, BAA Gatwick
Ms. L. Trevor – Head of Strategy and Business Development, BAA Gatwick
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. Avis, Mr. Blake, Mr. Collier, Mr. P. Hall, Mr. Hersey, Mrs. Myland, and Mr. Rice.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

79. The Chairman was pleased to report that Mrs. Hilary Sewill, former Vice-Chairman of GATCOM, had received an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list. GATCOM passed on its congratulations to Mrs. Sewill.

80. The Chairman also reported that since the date of the last meeting Supt. Robin Smith, Gatwick Commander, Sussex Police, had been promoted and that Supt. Ian Davies was acting Gatwick Commander. He also reported that he had attended the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign's Annual General meeting and a meeting with Horley Town Council to discuss a range of airport related matters.

81. He also referred members to the update on Project Griffin that Superintendent Robin Smith had given at the last meeting of the Committee. The Chairman advised that

he had recently participated in the Project Griffin awareness training day which had been most beneficial. He encouraged other members to volunteer to undertake the training.

MINUTES

82. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October, 2008, be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

GATCOM Steering Group

83. Resolved – That the draft minutes of the GATCOM Steering Group held on 8th January, 2009, be received and noted (copy attached to the signed minutes).

PLANNING FOR THE LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

84. Mr. Danny Sloan, Director – Planning 2012, BAA, gave a presentation on the anticipated impact of the Olympic Games on Gatwick Airport and the region (a summary of the presentation is attached to the signed minutes). He explained that although it was too early to provide an accurate forecast of traffic, Gatwick would handle a high number of visitors to the Games between the end of July through to mid September when the London Paralympic Games came to a close. He emphasised the importance of protecting and enhancing the reputation of hosting the Games and there was a need to learn from the host countries of previous Games to ensure that the UK offered a first class welcome to all visitors, particularly at the UK's airports and other entry points.

85. He explained that there would be two types of traffic for the Games – the Olympic family and the Games' visitors. It would be the Games' visitors that would have the greatest impact on Gatwick's traffic and it was anticipated that there would be a substantial displacement of normal traffic as well as the high volume of passenger throughput during the busiest peak months of the year. Gatwick Airport would need to meet the challenge of capacity and space constraints and would need to protect and raise standards of service to provide the best welcome possible for visitors. BAA was already working with a number of Olympic agencies and Gatwick had been used for test events in helping to develop a comprehensive plan for handling the Olympic traffic.

86. GATCOM was most encouraged by the work that had already been undertaken by BAA in planning for the Games and agreed that it would lend its full support to ensure that Gatwick Airport could deliver a first class welcome for visitors to the Games. Of immediate concern to members was the investment needed for Gatwick railway station to provide the world-class facility and environment for passengers travelling through the airport to the London Games. There was also concern about the capacity of the rail network to handle the additional traffic particularly at peak times when demand for rail services already exceeded capacity.

87. GATCOM also advocated the need for the full co-operation of the airport community and other key stakeholders in ensuring that improvements were made to the services and facilities and transportation network to and from the airport.

88. The Chairman thanked Danny Sloan for his presentation and asked that an update on forecasts and plans be given at a future meeting of the Committee.

SEEDA – OVERVIEW OF GATWICK ISSUES

89. As a new member organisation serving on GATCOM, SEEDA welcomed the opportunity to briefly outline SEEDA's role and its work within the Gatwick Diamond area. Ms. Gilly Bartrip, Area Director Sussex, SEEDA, explained the Gatwick Diamond's

future plan which had the aim of creating a world class internationally recognised business location within the Gatwick Diamond by 2016. Of vital importance to SEEDA was the connectivity of the airport with the rest of the region and the UK as a whole. Mr. Golletz, Head of Planning and Infrastructure, SEEDA, explained SEEDA's work in influencing government policy particularly in respect of the need to preserve the dedicated Gatwick Express service and the investment needed for the railway station. Members were encouraged that SEEDA was actively engaged with Network Rail and the DfT.

90. The Chairman thanked Ms. Bartrip and Mr. Golletz for the informative presentation.

SALE OF GATWICK

91. Mr. Flower updated members on the progress of the sale of the airport and again confirmed that BAA's intention was to sell Gatwick as a whole enterprise. He reported that BAA had sent out an information memorandum to perspective bidders in December and indicative bids were received on 19th January. BAA was working with the Competition Commission on the suitability of the bidders to go forward to the next stage of the sale process. Members noted that the Competition Commission had put forward four purchaser criteria in its provisional decision which would require:

- independence from BAA and ADI/Ferrovial;
- appropriate expertise;
- appropriate financial resources; and
- an absence of further competitive concerns.

92. Mr. Flower also advised that BAA was not expecting any particular difficulties in the assessment of the suitability of purchasers and it was hoped to achieve the sale within one year.

93. GATCOM was also pleased to learn that BAA had already appointed a shadow monitoring trustee, with the agreement of the Competition Commission, to ensure that the sale process was managed in accordance with best practice. In the meantime BAA would continue to communicate and work with its airlines and other key stakeholders regarding certain aspects of the sale and a further report would be given at the next meeting of GATCOM.

COMPETITION COMMISSION'S BAA MARKET INVESTIGATION: PROVISIONAL DECISION AND REMEDIES – GATCOM'S RESPONSE

94. The Committee noted that following consultation with all members of GATCOM, the GATCOM Steering Group had considered the Commission's provisional decision and remedies, and agreed a response which was submitted to the Competition Commission on 9th January. GATCOM endorsed the submitted response (copy attached to the signed minutes).

AIRPORT COMMENTARY

95. 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). The Chairman thanked Mr. Flower and his team for hosting the seminar that morning on the development projects coming forward at Gatwick Airport which had been most informative.

Traffic Performance

96. Members noted that passenger numbers were down by 2.8% compared to the same period the previous year. Mr. Flower advised that this was largely due to the current economic downturn on both demand and capacity and the complete cessation of operations from airlines including XL Airways, Stirling, Zoom, Oasis Hong Kong and Nationwide. Passenger forecasts had therefore been revised downwards but it was hoped that by the end of 2009 Gatwick would again see some growth.

97. Mr. Flower was pleased to report that good performance had been achieved throughout the Christmas period. BAA Gatwick had put in place contingency plans to address the possibility of security queuing at peak times which included moving some flights between terminals to ease expected congestion within the terminals. Mr. Flower thanked and praised all staff and airline partners for helping to ensure good performance was delivered to passengers over the festive period.

Customer Feedback

98. GATCOM was concerned that the most significant area of complaint remained the special assistance service for persons with reduced mobility. Members supported the close partnership working between BAA Gatwick, the airline community and the new contractor, G4S, and were encouraged that some improvements in service provision had been made. GATCOM noted that the Passenger Advisory Group was continuing to monitor the performance of the contractor.

99. Members were also encouraged that passenger pre-notification rates had improved and that it was highlighted that there needed to be greater consistency in the way in which airlines provided advice and contact details for special assistance on their websites so that passengers were able to pre-book assistance at the time of the flight. The AOC's representative advised that this would be taken up with the airline community.

New Section 106 Agreement

100. Members noted that all the parties had now signed the new Section 106 legal agreement, and the memorandum of understanding between the Gatwick local authorities. The new agreement would continue to define Gatwick's future operation and covered a wide range of sustainability obligations and commitments.

PASSENGER ADVISORY GROUP

101. GATCOM received the report from the Vice-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).

Gatwick Express

102. Mr. Hobbs reported on PAG's significant concern about the new extended Gatwick Express service, which came into operation on 15th December. PAG members had monitored the performance of the new service during the early morning peak on several occasions and this had revealed a number of issues of concern in terms of the rolling stock used, punctuality and performance and overcrowding. GATCOM shared the PAG's concern about the negative impact Southern's December timetable changes had had on the rail service on the Brighton mainline at peak times for both air passengers and commuters from the south coast. It was agreed that the Secretariat would pursue the

matter with Southern, the DfT and MPs to seek a reinstatement of the pre-December timetable.

Inter Terminal Transit

103. Mr. Hobbs highlighted to GATCOM the plans for the refurbishment of the inter-terminal transit between the North and South Terminals and advised that a temporary bus replacement service would be in operation during the refurbishment work. He was pleased to report that the PAG welcomed the decision that the temporary bus service would operate to and from the North and South Terminals using the forecourt to forecourt route. There were however issues that still needed to be resolved, particularly the assurances being sought by the Gatwick AOC to find solutions to manage congestion on the airport roundabouts and in Airport Way approaching North Terminal, passenger flow issues and the need for alternative contingencies in the event of severe delays.

104. Resolved – That:

- (1) the Honorary Secretary write to Southern and the DfT to express concerns about the problems for passengers on the extended service for the Gatwick Express and to invite a senior representative of Southern to a future meeting of PAG to provide an update on how the current problems are being addressed.
- (2) BAA Gatwick be requested to pay particular attention to and find solutions to issues identified by the Gatwick AOC regarding the bus replacement service for the inter-terminal transit including the additional request by PAG to consider the use of the upper level at the North Terminal for dropping off passengers and the lower level for picking up passengers to avoid passengers not having to change levels to access the bus.
- (3) the PAG's continued concern about the service performance for passengers with reduced mobility be noted.

GATWICK AIRPORT LIMITED'S COMMITMENTS AND LEGAL OBLIGATIONS - MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2007

105. GATCOM considered a report by the Technical Adviser on the outcome of the verification of the monitoring report for the period 1st April to 31st December, 2007 (copy attached to the signed minutes). Members noted that of the 25 commitments/obligations audited by the Bureau Veritas, 17 were found on track to be achieved within the timescale stipulated.

106. Mrs. Howell advised that the monitoring process for the year 1st January to 31st December, 2008 had commenced against the interim revised commitments. She explained that under the terms of the new legal agreement the monitoring arrangements had been simplified in that the independent environmental consultant had the responsibility for selecting all the commitments and obligations for audit in accordance with the selection criteria set out in the legal agreement. She suggested that the GATCOM Steering Group considers the way in which GATCOM could engage with BAA Gatwick, West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council in the future regarding the delivery of the commitments and obligations under the new reporting and monitoring regime.

107. Resolved – That:

- (1) the outcome of the monitoring process be noted.

- (2) BAA Gatwick, West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council be urged to take forward measures recommended by Bureau Veritas.
- (3) the GATCOM Steering Group review the action taken by BAA Gatwick in response to the verifiers' recommendations.
- (4) the GATCOM Steering Group considers the manner in which GATCOM could engage with BAA Gatwick, West Sussex County Council and Crawley Borough Council in the future regarding the delivery of the commitments and obligations under the new reporting and monitoring regime.

CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING REPORT

108. GATCOM noted the report by Crawley Borough Council's Director for Environment and Housing on planning applications determined in respect of Gatwick since the date of the last meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes). Miss Cordery, Planning Officer, Crawley Borough Council, advised that the Borough Council had granted planning permission for the development of the North West zone for additional remote aircraft stands and a surface water pond.

109. Members commented on the applications yet to be determined by the Borough Council in respect of Gatwick Airport and asked whether the Borough Council could, in future, include in its report those planning applications in respect of Gatwick pending determination. The Secretariat would raise the matter with Crawley Borough Council.

FLIGHT EVALUATION UNIT (FEU) REPORT

110. 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). Members noted that NATMAG looked forward to the future consideration of the report relating to the overflight of Horley once the investigation had been completed.

BAA POLICY ON HANDLING AIRCRAFT NOISE COMPLAINTS

111. GATCOM noted the BAA's policy on handling aircraft noise complaints (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr. Jones, Tandridge District Council, advised that the new policy had been presented to NATMAG which had been welcomed in principle but there were a number of points of clarification that had been suggested which had not been included in the final published document. BAA Gatwick agreed to look into the matter.

DfT AIRCRAFT NOISE MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ANMAC)

112. Members received the summary produced by the DfT of the meeting of ANMAC held on 6th November, 2008 (copy attached to the signed minutes). It was noted that ANMAC had received an interim progress report from Eurocontrol on the work undertaken to date on its assessment of the arrivals procedures at Gatwick. Eurocontrol was expected to present its final report to ANMAC early in 2009.

RAIL UPDATE

113. GATCOM considered a report by the Secretariat providing an update on the current position in respect of the redevelopment of Gatwick Station and the South Central franchise, including the changes to the Gatwick Express service that came into effect on 15th December (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Redevelopment of Gatwick Station

114. Members noted that the Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR) had decided to increase the funding for the Gatwick track remodelling and station scheme by £10 million bringing the total funding to £19 million. However the increase in funding still fell far short of the £30 million estimated by Network Rail for its part of the preferred scheme. BAA Gatwick was continuing to discuss with Network Rail the impact of the revised funding for the scheme but no decision had yet been made as to how the scheme would be taken forward. Members were most concerned about the shortfall in funding and that it was now unlikely that a world-class interchange facility as originally planned could be realised. GATCOM highlighted the implications of this for the anticipated traffic at Gatwick during the Olympic Games coupled with the lack of capacity on the rail network to handle any additional traffic at peak times during the Games. It was agreed, therefore, that GATCOM would continue to lobby for appropriate investment for the railway station and that Network Rail be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to present jointly with BAA Gatwick the revised scheme for Gatwick Station and the South Terminal forecourt.

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – PLANNING ACT 2008 – LIST OF STATUTORY CONSULTEES FOR NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

115. Mr. Smith reported that a consultation had recently been received from the Department of Communities and Local Government on the proposed list of statutory consultees for national policy statements to be developed under the Planning Act 2008. As the deadline for responses to the consultation were required to be submitted by 2nd April he felt it important to inform GATCOM that airport consultative committees had not been included on the list of formal consultees. It was agreed, therefore, that a response to the consultation be prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to seek the inclusion of airport consultative committees in the list of formal consultees on the development of a national policy statement for aviation.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

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

Passenger Advisory Group - Wednesday, 15th April, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

GATCOM Steering Group - Thursday, 2nd April, 2009 at 10.00 a.m.

GATCOM - Thursday, 30th April, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

117. Mrs. Street also advised that it was intended to hold a seminar on the morning of the next meeting of the Committee to outline a new vision for Gatwick Airport.

Chairman