

**BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT - AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
16 MAY 2019 AT 1.30 PM**

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Present: Mr Colin Flack – Chairman

In attendance from Birmingham Airport:

Nick Barton	-	Chief Executive
Kirstin Kane	-	Head of Sustainability
Andy Holding	-	Corporate Responsibility Manager
Tom Redfern	-	Environment Manager
Ed Kibblewhite	-	Accessibility Manager

In attendance from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council:

Mr L Stevenson	-	Representing the ACC Secretariat
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ABTA	-	Mrs S Foxall
Balsall Common Village Residents Association	-	Mr D Ellis
Barston Parish Council	-	Mr D Elliott
Berkswell Parish Council	-	Cllr R Lloyd
Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council	-	Cllr J Horton
Birmingham City Council	-	Cllr D Donaldson
Consumers Association	-	Mr P Orton
Fordbridge Town Council	-	Cllr L Sorrell
Hampton Society	-	Mr M Blomer
Hampton in Arden Parish Council	-	Cllr D Sandells
Marston Green Residents Association	-	Mr J W Fox
Shard End Communities	-	Mrs M Ball
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	-	Mrs B Hill
Smith's Wood Parish Council	-	Cllr J Wilson
Vice-Chairman and Passengers Representative	-	Mrs R Tyler
Wychwood Club	-	Mr G A Heaps
Wolverhampton City Council	-	Cllr C Hibbert

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Apologies were received on behalf of: -

Balsall Parish Council	- Cllr M Tattum
Birmingham City Council	- Cllr M Ward
Catherine de Barnes Residents Association	- Mr D Cuthbert
Chelmsley Wood Town Council	- Cllr E Tomkins
Coventry City Council	- Cllr J McNicholas
Kingshurst Parish Council	- Cllr M Dawson
Knowle Society	- Mrs E Baker
Sheldon Residents Association	- Mrs M Kennett
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr T Diccio
Staffordshire County Council	- Cllr M Deaville
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	- Cllr J Murray
Warwick District Council	- Cllr G Illingworth

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed all Members of the Committee and representatives from the Airport Company. Each Member introduced themselves to the meeting.

The Chairman also drew the Committee's attention to the fact that Cllr M Tattum, previously representing Balsall Parish Council had retired at the end of the 2018/19 municipal year. In his absence, the Committee recorded their appreciation to Cllr Tattum for his service on the Committee and wished him well for the future.

RESOLVED

That the welcomes and introductions for this meeting be noted.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee, held on 14th February 2019, were submitted.

Matters Arising

The Airport Company (Andy Holding) – updated the Committee as to the current position of the Monarch Hanger. The Administrators were currently marketing the facility and a further update would be given at the next meeting if there was anything to report.

The width of the ILS beacon over Balsall Common, as requested by Mr D Ellis at the last meeting, was reported as 150m. In context, the wingspan of an Airbus A380 was 80m.

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the last meeting be agreed as a correct record and the matters arising be noted.

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3. PRE-SUBMITTED QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE & MATTERS ARISING

In accordance with the agreed changes to meeting procedures, Members of the Committee were encouraged to submit questions prior to the meeting. The follow questions had been submitted:

QUESTIONS:

Question from Richard Lloyd, Berkswell Parish Council:

"I read in the Activities report sect 6, that the Car Park Levy fund has a surplus of £346,000. What is the mechanism for getting access to this fund to provide money for local initiatives? Balsall Common is now blighted by saturation levels of on-street car parking that has been displaced from places with high car parking charges, including the Airport. Potential projects include a robust origin and destination study of the people who are clogging our streets, and schemes to introduce parking restrictions and enforcement."

Airport Company response:

"Unfortunately there is little likelihood of the Car Park Levy funding this sort of initiative. The relevant clause of the Section 106 Agreement between BAL and SMBC states:

"The Car Park Levy shall be allocated by and used by the Airport Company having considered the advice of the Travel Plan Monitoring Group, to fund public transport initiatives and infrastructure projects, to undertake market promotion activities and offer service revenue support and subsidy for projects demonstrably related to and contributing to the increase in the Public transport Modal Share targets....and removing the transport barriers faced by residents of north Solihull which may hinder employment opportunities at the Airport and for no other purpose." (our italics).

Members will appreciate that BAL has no direct control over on-street parking, but we are aware that this is an issue in Balsall Common and other communities. We can only recommend that the issue is taken up with SMBC's Highways Department and we would be happy to be a part of any discussions that take place."

RESOLVED

That the responses to the pre-submitted questions be noted.

4. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Airport Company (Nick Barton) presented the Airport Activities report for the period January to March 2019. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Aircraft & Passenger Statistics.
- Aviation Development.
- Marketing.
- Commercial Development.
- Operations
- Planning, Transportation & Infrastructure.

In presenting the report, Mr Barton also highlighted a number of updates in relation to airport growth, world markets, investment and business commitments, drones, key projects and recent ministerial changes.

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Discussion Points

Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council (Cllr J Horton) – highlighted the continued significance of the climate change agenda at national level and invited the Airport Company to make any additional comments at this time. In response, the Airport Company highlighted that technological improvements with the aviation industry were worth noting such as newer aircraft that produced less emissions. Mr Barton stated that the Airport Company needed to have a credible approach to the climate change agenda and that the Airport would respond positively to current and future challenges. The Committee was advised that the Airport Company would refresh its approach and republish its statement on climate change in 3-4 months time.

Consumers Association (Mr P Orton) – requested an update on the sale of Flybe following the announcement at the end of last year. Mr Orton also sought an update on the airlines current operations at BHX. The Airport Company advised that Flybe was currently in a state of transition and that no firm details on a new buyer were known as yet. The Committee was advised that the airline had recently introduced a new, stricter, baggage policy and it was also expected that the less profitable routes would cease in the near future. It was envisaged that Flybe, from a business perspective would change, together with the composition and branding of its air-fleet.

Hampton Society (Mr M Blomer) – requested an update on the highway works associated with the M42 Junction 6. The Airport Company advised that this would be covered in the Master Plan update later in the meeting.

Fordbridge Town Council (Cllr L Sorrell) – requested an update on the current situation with Thomas Cook. The Airport Company made reference to a recent announcement about their current performance, highlighting that Thomas Cook was a huge business that was currently undergoing a strategic review, insofar as their travel, aircraft and hotel elements. The Airport Company advised that they suspected that Thomas Cook, as an ongoing business, would be biased towards their hotel offer, with others taking over their current travel operations.

Wolverhampton City Council (Cllr C Hibbert) – asked the Airport Company for an update on Brexit in terms of how passengers might be affected when the UK leaves the EU; and also what safeguards would be in place to maintain UK air quality. The Committee was advised that the assumption was that there would not be any noticeable differences to passengers and a large degree of harmonisation would remain. It was envisaged that new regulations would supersede current EU Regs; the UK may even set its own. At this point in time, it was a case of “wait and see”.

In terms of air quality, it was reported that airline manufacturers were making great gains toward air quality in terms of noise and emissions; no other industry was doing that. The Airport Company advised that electric buses were coming too; a £4M investment that the Airport Company had chosen to do. In terms of future electric power, the Airport Company stated that the Committee should expect to see a shift toward electric power being used in new aircraft in years to come for take off and landings to further reduce noise and emissions.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the Airport Activities Report for the period January to March 2019, be received.

5. SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) presented the Sustainability Report for the period January to March 2019. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Sustainability Update.
- Noise Violations.

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- Night Flying Policy.
- Engine Ground Running.
- Air Traffic.
- Aircraft Activity Complaints.
- Air Quality.
- Waste (Recycled).
- Energy.

In presenting the report, the Airport Company (Tom Redfern) highlighted that on 22 February, BAL had received approval for the redesigned northbound turn for aircraft departing from runway 15. Following the regulatory decision, there was a process where the new procedure would be promulgated to Airlines to update the onboard Flight Management Systems. That process would end on 22 May and the new procedures would become effective from 23 May 2019.

Ahead of the revised northbound turn becoming operational, it had been requested by Balsall Common Parish Council that noise monitoring was undertaken to the north of the village. That had been agreed at the ACC meeting held on 14 February and the noise monitor was deployed at a property in Wootton Green Lane between 3 and 30 April. The study would be repeated once the redesigned turn had been implemented to assess any noise difference that had resulted from the new design.

Discussion Points

Balsall Common Village Residents Association (Mr D Ellis) – noted the report from the Airport Company in relation to the redesigned northbound turn and stated that he would be awaiting the results of the second noise study with interest.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Fox) – highlighted that there had been a noticeable noise increase in the Blackfirs Lane vicinity, and a local perception that aircraft were taking off at a higher departure angle. Mr Fox asked the Airport Company for comment. The Airport Company advised that there was a modest increase in height on a small data sample and that more detailed analysis was needed. The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) agreed to discuss the matter with Mr Fox outside of the meeting to obtain further details.

Hampton in Arden Parish Council (Cllr D Sandells) – asked the Airport Company for a comment on their position with regard to sustainable energy production and on-site power storage. The Committee was advised that there were some opportunities within BAL owned land, similar to agricultural farms that allocated some of their land to energy production.

The Airport Company added that they were willing to consider new trends as part of their future business model. Anti-glare solar panels were now widely used and their physical reflective impact was much less when installed in large numbers.

Wolverhampton City Council (Cllr C Hibbert) – added that there was a considerable amount of ongoing work at a regional level pertaining to renewable energy.

Barston Parish Council (Mr D Elliot) – Referred to the Post Implementation Review (PIR) report that had been submitted by BAL for the southbound runway 15 SIDs to the CAA on 7 July 2017. The report highlighted that the PIR had undergone a number of significant delays due to CAA resourcing issues. Mr Elliot expressed his frustrations at those delays and that view was shared by the Airport Company.

The Airport Company (Andy Holding) – advised separately to the content of the Corporate Responsibility element of the report that the Community Trust Fund had met recently and had awarded a total of £55k to 45 separate local projects. Further details would be provided at the Committees next meeting.

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RESOLVED

That the contents of the Sustainability Report for the period January to March 2019, be noted.

6. PASSENGER SERVICES REPORT

The Airport Company (Ed Kibblewhite) – presented the Passenger Services Report for the period January to March 2019. The report set out updates on the following matters:

- Oracle RightNow (CRM System).
- ASQ Passenger Survey Results Q1 2019.
- Airport Operational Performance Q1 2019.

Discussion Points

Balsall Common Village Residents Association (Mr D Ellis) – highlighted the issue of baggage trolleys and drew the Committees attention to a question he had received from a local Balsall Common resident that asked for the complimentary use of trolleys for the convenience of passengers. Mr Ellis also highlighted that overseas passengers were often hindered by not having the correct currency and change to release a baggage trolley when arriving at BHX.

The Airport Company stated that nobody liked paying for trolleys at airports and they acknowledged the payment issue for inbound overseas passengers. In support of the usage charge, the operational cost of between £800k to £1M per year was highlighted. The Committee was advised that, over time, trolley charges might be something that the Airport Company would consider removing although, currently, there were other greater priorities for budget allocation.

Marston Green Residents Association (Mr J Fox) – highlighted again that the signage for the drop-off car park and the hire car facility was poor. The Airport Company acknowledged the concerns that had been raised at the previous meeting; reiterated that a review was in progress and confirmed that the results of that work would be reported back to ACC once known.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the Passenger Services Report for the period January to March 2019 be noted.

7. ACC REPRESENTATION – CALTHORPE RESIDENTS SOCIETY

The Committee was advised that a request for ACC membership had been received from the above Society.

The request had been considered recently by the Committee's Steering Group who were recommending that the request be declined given that Birmingham City Council had 3 elected members serving on ACC currently and that the Society could voice their views via either of those existing members.

RESOLVED

That the request for ACC Membership from Calthorpe Residents Society be declined.

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8. MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Airport Company (Robert Eaton) delivered a PowerPoint presentation entitled “Birmingham Airport: Midlands Gateway to the World” to update the Committee on progress toward the Master Plan and Surface Access Strategy. The presentation also set out an update on the progress toward the proposed changes to M42 Junction 6 which BAL fundamentally supported.

Discussion Points

The Hampton Society (Mr M Blomer) – asked the Airport Company for their comments on the proposed motorway service area (MSA). The Committee was advised that the Airport Company had a neutral view on this proposed development. A planning application had been submitted to Solihull MBC and was awaiting determination.

Hampton in Arden Parish Council (Cllr D Sandells) – highlighted from the presentation that a number of “closed” questions had been used in the Master Plan consultation exercise and that concern had been acknowledged as part of the consultation analysis and feedback. Cllr Sandells welcomed the recommendations for future consultations insofar as those types of questions would be avoided and that the ACC would be consulted prior to any significant consultations being carried out.

In response to a question, the Airport Company further advised that the Master Plan would hopefully be published in early June, following its consideration by the Airport Board on 22 May 2019.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the presentation and reported updates be noted.

9. AVIATION 2050 – GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – THE FUTURE OF UK AVIATION

The Chairman (Colin Flack) invited the Committee to recall that at the last ACC meeting, it had been resolved that a small Working Group be established to consider *Aviation 2050 – Government Consultation – The Future of UK Aviation*.

The Chairman was pleased to report that the Vice-Chairman, Rosemary Tyler, who had been leading on this, had circulated a final draft for the Committee to consider and approve. The Chairman also thanked Mrs Tyler for leading on the response draft and to those Members of the Committee who had contributed to the response thus far.

The Committee perused the latest draft and considered its content.

Discussion Points

The following further revisions were suggested:

- Para 3.69 – Community Engagement – Strengthen. The Committee’s view was that ACCs are unique in this sector. No other industries have consultative bodies such as ACCs.
- Section 8 – Encourage Innovation and Technology – Members highlighted that there was a need to ensure that aviation keeps at the forefront of innovation and technology to create employment and attract investment. This should be clear in the response.
- Para 3.123-3 127 – Air Quality – The Committee added that it should be clear that there should be joined up thinking between all stakeholders.

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- Para 4.27 – Air Passenger Duty – The Committee discussed that such a charge should be levied on the airlines and not the consumer. The consultation response should reflect the Committee’s concerns relating to APD.
- Para 4.51-4.84 – Regional Employment, Training and Skills – Strengthen. The Committee highlighted the need to reflect radical changes to up-skilling opportunities to improve employment opportunities and quality of life.
- Section 7 – Support General Aviation – The Committee considered the inclusion of commercial drones in the response was important as that type of activity was envisaged to become a future issue.

It was agreed that a further edited draft would be circulated to Members of the Committee and that version would incorporate the changes discussed at this meeting.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Committee place on record their appreciation to Mrs Rosemary Tyler for leading on the consultation response drafting;
- (ii) That a further revised draft response be circulated electronically to ACC Members which incorporates the suggested revisions as discussed at this meeting;
- (iii) That a short deadline be set for the receipt of any further comments from Members of the Committee; and
- (iv) That the Committee authorise the submission of the final response thereafter (iii) above.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Airport Company (Kirstin Kane) – drew the Committee’s attention to the commitment to review the current policy on day-time noise limits and suggested that the Airport Company was looking to convene an ACC Working Group to undertake that review. The Committee was invited to send any expressions of interest directly to Kirstin Kane or Andy Holding as soon as possible. It was envisaged that the Working Group would meet ahead of the next ACC, scheduled for August 2019.

Balsall Common Village Residents Association (Mr D Ellis) – referenced a PPR consultation that was due to end in July and asked if any further information was known? The Airport Company (Tom Redfern) stated that the Airport Company knew of the consultation and would be able to reference a link in the Minutes to provide further details.

[post-meeting note – Consultation: Airspace change: a decision-making process for PPR (planned and permanent redistribution of air traffic) proposals:

<https://consultations.caa.co.uk/policy-development/ppr-decision-making-process/>

RESOLVED

- (i) That the contents of the AOB item be noted; and
- (ii) That approval be given to the establishment of an ACC Working Group to consider a review of the policy on day-time noise limits. Expressions of interest to participate in the review to be sent directly to Kirstin Kane or Andy Holding.

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11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates for future meetings had now been arranged as follows:

Thursday 15th August 2019
Thursday 14th November 2019
Thursday 13th February 2020

All meetings would take place at the usual venue: 2nd floor, Diamond House, Birmingham Airport B26 3QJ and were all scheduled to start at 13:30hrs.

RESOLVED

That the future dates for ACC be noted.