

# **ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT DONCASTER/SHEFFIELD CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**11 MAY 2005**

## **ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT, DONCASTER**

PRESENT:- Alan Tolhurst (Chairman).  
Tony Storey OBE (Doncaster Local Schools), Roger Ranson (Bassetlaw Local Strategic Partnership), Michael Carnell (Nottinghamshire Chamber), Councillor Mick Jameson (Doncaster MBC), Councillor Pat Bartlett (Doncaster MBC), Peter Nears (Peel Holdings), Clare Wilson (Robin Hood Airport), Andrew Denniff (Sheffield Chamber), Andrew Bosmans (Friends of Doncaster/Sheffield Airport), Councillor Ken Sanderson (Barnsley MBC), Neville Dearden (Doncaster Chamber), Councillor Barbara Hoyle (Doncaster MBC), Councillor Yvonne Woodcock (Doncaster MBC), Councillor Paula Haigh (Rossington Parish Council), Councillor Norma McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Councillor Irwen Martin (Harworth Parish Council), Ian Lings (Lincolnshire County Council), Councillor Bill Mordue (Doncaster MBC), Councillor Glyn Robinson (Rotherham MBC), Martin McCarthy (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tim Rippon (Sheffield City Council), Nigel Tomlinson (Sheffield Chamber), Colin Jeynes (Doncaster Strategic Partnership), Shelley Fell-Bowers (Directions Finningley) and Dr Tony Baxter (Chairman, Heath Impact Group).

### 1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting. He introduced St John Deakin, Chairman of the Bassetlaw Primary Care Trust. It was hoped that St John would, in the future, support the work of the Health Impact Group.

The Chairman spoke on behalf of all the Committee when congratulating the staff and management team at the airport and Peter Nears from Peel Holdings for their hard work in ensuring the airport opened on schedule and looking longer term, providing the platform for major regeneration opportunities in the region.

### 2 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED - The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 20 January 2005, were considered and agreed as a true record.

The Secretary confirmed that in respect of the Airport website and the ACC having its own dedicated pages, work was nearing completion. Members asked that they be provided with details in respect of presentation and content once available.

3 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

(i) Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee

RESOLVED - The minutes of the meeting of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee held on 18 February 2005 were considered and agreed.

RESOLVED - The draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 May 2005 were noted.

The Committee discussed the Noise Complaints Procedure, and highlighted a number of concerns where members of the public had telephoned the Airport wishing to make a complaint regarding noise and had been put through to a telephone answering machine.

It was clear that the Environment Co-ordinator could not be sat at her desk 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but it was felt that the message should contain more specific information as to how complaints would be handled and more specifically when they were likely to receive a response.

Clare Wilson again outlined the Noise Complaints Procedure, which sought to respond to all complaints within one calendar month, although it was stressed that this was a maximum period for reply. Clare had responded to the majority of calls and would endeavour to respond in writing within 14 working days providing a full investigation of the noise disturbance. The Track Keeping System would shortly be in place and would operate in conjunction with the two fixed noise monitors. This would allow the Environment Co-ordinator to investigate the flight in question related to noise incidents from the radar via Air Traffic Control.

Further concerns had been raised regarding the number of flights taking off to the South, when the original agreement was that the majority would take off to the North. It was confirmed that strong prevailing winds from the South-West had necessitated take-off to the South for a number of flights, but this would no doubt change in the future. On a general point, there was a procedure in place to limit night time flights over built up areas.

It was confirmed that Doncaster MBC would shortly have direct access to noise monitoring data.

RESOLVED –

- i) That if possible an explanation feature in the next Airport Newsletter or through a press release outlining why a number of flights had taken off to the South during the early days of the Airport's operation.

- ii) Peter Nears agreed to investigate what arrangements other airports of a similar operation had in place to handle complaints of noise from the public.

(ii) Community Sub-Committee

RESOLVED - The minutes of the meeting of the Community Sub-Committee held on 25 February 2005 were considered and agreed.

RESOLVED – The draft minutes of the meeting of the Community Sub-Committee held on 3 May 2005 were noted.

Councillor Woodcock, Chair of the Community Sub-Committee, confirmed that nominations had been made to the Public Art Group. Peter Nears agreed to notify those concerned of when the first meeting was likely to take place, and discuss what budget the Group would be working with.

Peter Nears confirmed that in respect of the Arrow Bus Service operating from West Street, Doncaster to the Airport, early indications were that patronage figures were in keeping with those projected. In response to a question from Cllr Jameson regarding the £3.50 fare level, Peter Nears confirmed that this was under constant review and whilst perhaps too early to consider changes, these would be made if it were felt that this would enhance the service provided. There were other services operating to the Airport and it was important that this choice was maintained. The staff bus service was also under review, and would be looked at further once meaningful data had been captured.

4 AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS

Peter Nears provided the Committee with a progress report on latest developments.

Major road works in the vicinity of the Airport were nearing completion. Two further schemes would commence, phased in accordance with the growth of the Airport, one at Parrots Corner on the A638 Bawtry Road which would incorporate a cycle route and the other on the A614/A18 at Hatfield close to the Green Tree public house, which would incorporate a signalised junction.

The two fixed noise monitoring sites were now operational. One was based at Boston Park Farm to the North and the other within the Air Cadets Base at Bawtry. The provision of on-site radar at the airport was currently out to tender.

In terms of policy development, staff were working closely with transport authorities in the region to ensure the Airport's Surface Access Strategy, would feature prominently in respective Local Transport Plans 2006-11.

Staff were working with officers from Doncaster MBC in respect of the development of the Finningley and Rossington Regeneration Route Strategy, which would provide a link to the Airport from Junction 3 of the M18.

There was a requirement from the Department for Transport for all airports to develop longer term development plans for the periods up to 2015 and 2030 to cope with anticipated growth projections in air travel. A master plan had to be submitted to the DfT by December 2005. This was currently being drafted and would be out for consultation in the Summer. It was noted that this might necessitate an additional meeting of the ACC being called.

Peter Nears thanked officers from Doncaster MBC for resolving one or two issues in respect of the provision of motorway signage for the Airport. It was hoped that permanent signage would be in place within the next 2 to 3 months. The Committee congratulated those responsible for the provision of the yellow and black signs which were currently used to guide people en route to the Airport.

There had already been a positive reaction to the announcement of long haul flights to Mexico, Florida and the Dominican Republic. Negotiations were currently taking place to add New York to the list of long haul destinations.

Thomson Fly had named one of their planes, "Spirit of Doncaster", in a ceremony earlier in the week. A major aviation conference, 'French Connection', was currently taking place in Sheffield, at which it was hoped to market the Robin Hood brand to airport operators from France.

The Chairman thanked Peter Nears for his presentation.

5 THE ROLE OF THE HEALTH IMPACT GROUP

It was agreed that this item be deferred until the next meeting. The Secretary agreed to circulate the Terms of Reference of the Group and Minutes of its first meeting.

6 OTHER ISSUES

- i) Shop – Junction of Hurst Lane/Hayfield Lane – A number of patrons of the store were experiencing problems in gaining access to the shop owing to traffic build up at this junction.

It was reported that as a first step a "Keep Clear" sign would be painted on the highway outside the shop. The timing sequences at the traffic lights would also be reviewed.

- ii) Airport Viewing Area - Owing to tremendous interest in the airport, a viewing area car park was being considered along the Old Bawtry Road, which ran parallel to the Airport's runway.

- iii) Relaying Information to the ACC - The Committee asked that where possible, a news update/synopsis of ongoing work be provided to members of the Airport Consultative Committee on a more frequent basis. The benefits of such an approach would allow members to undertake their role of promoting the benefits of the Airport to the region. It was agreed that as a first step the Secretary be provided with copies of all press releases for circulation to the Committee.

RESOLVED - Peter Nears agreed to discuss matter with David Ryall, the Managing Director.

- iv) Chambers of Commerce – Airport Impact - Neville Dearden, confirmed that the Chambers of Commerce in South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire were currently commissioning a piece of work looking at the impact of the airport on the region. The outcomes of this research would be shared with members of the Committee.
- v) Public Attendance at Meetings - Members again discussed the issue of public attendance at meetings. It was stressed that whilst these were not public meetings, members of the public could attend and observe the deliberations of this Committee.
- vi) Provision of OS Map – Clare Wilson agreed to have produced a large scale Ordnance Survey map of the Airport and the immediate area with flight paths overlaid, to assist the Committee in its deliberations.

7 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2005

It was agreed that the Committee would meet on the following dates during 2005:-

Tuesday 20 September 2005  
Friday 16 December 2005.

Both meetings would commence at 3.00 pm.