

**ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER/SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE
7/12/05**

ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER/SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE

7 DECEMBER 2005

PRESENT: Councillor Yvonne Woodcock (in the Chair),
Martin Gold (Vice-Chair), Councillor Barbara Hoyle (DMBC),
Councillor S W Higgins (Tickhill Town Council), Councillor Paula Haigh
(Rossington Parish Council), Councillor Robert Brown (Blyth Parish
Council), Councillor Alan Cropley (Bawtry Town Council), Councillor
Norma McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Councillor Jennifer
Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council), Councillor Marilyn
Cockett (Auckley Parish Council), Councillor David Lindley (Finningley
Parish Council), Councillor Peter Farrell (Armthorpe Parish Council),
Councillor Ben Slade (Maltby Town Council), Alan Tolhurst (Chairman,
Airport Consultative Committee), David Ryall, Claire Wilson, Andrew
Dutton (Robin Hood Airport), Peter Nears (Director, Peel Holdings),
Martin McCarthy (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Eddie Durdy
(Hatfield Parish Council) and Councillor Stan Dixon (Austerfield Parish
Council).

1 **SHARON BENNETT**

The Chair and Members of the Sub-Committee recorded their thanks and appreciation to Sharon Bennett, PR and Community Affairs Manager at Robin Hood Airport, who was leaving to take up a new position. Members wished Sharon every success in her new position.

2 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of Community Sub-Committee held on 3 May 2005 were considered and agreed.

3 **COMMUNITY REPORT SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2005**

Clare Wilson, Environment Coordinator at Robin Hood reported the following:

Airport Statistics and Passenger Numbers

Robin Hood Airport had reached 500,000 passengers since opening in April 2005. EasyJet, would commence flights to Geneva during December 2005 and new routes from existing Airlines would commence in the New Year to Mexico, Dominican Republic and Florida. More destinations were expected in the year ahead.

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Beaujolais Nouveau Operation

The Beaujolais Nouveau Operation on the 8th November – 9th November 2005 delivered a successful handling operation. The Airport, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and the Airport noise consultants conducted noise monitoring throughout the operation at the Airport and the surrounding neighbourhood. The Airport received five complaints in total.

Training Flights

All aircraft conducting training circuits at Robin Hood Airport were required to operate within the Airport Training Procedures. The procedures restricted aircraft to 2 hours training with an interlude of 1 hour between one aircraft finishing and a second one commencing training. Training was permitted between the hours of 0700 to 2100 hours local, Monday to Saturday. Training was not permitted on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

Boeing 747's conducted circuits on the 14th November 2005. This generated eleven complaints in total. The nature of the complaints focused upon the height of the aircraft which was flying at 2100ft, the required height for an aircraft was 1500ft.

Track Keeping System

Specialists have been working over at Waddington and Liverpool airfields installing the Noise and Track Keeping System for the Airport. The installation of the system and the connections between the airfields was nearing completion.

Noise Control

Robin Hood Airport received 21 complaints in September, 26 in October and 20 in November from individuals. Each noise complaint was taken seriously by the Airport Company. It was stressed the number of complaints was not the main factor in determining mitigating action or operation restrictions undertaken. The focus for the Airport was to ensure that aircraft operated in accordance with the local operating procedures. Other mitigating factors that take aircraft away from these procedures: weather, conflicting traffic, system problems.

Sound Insulation Grant Scheme (SIGS)

There were 51 properties eligible to apply for SIGS. To date 14 property owners have expressed an interest and 12 have applied for SIGS.

The Meadows, Mosham Road, Blaxton was complete as a Show Home. Representatives from the Noise Monitoring and Community Sub Committees would be invited to view the property.

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Passenger Feedback

The Airport had received numerous positive comments from passengers and neighbouring residents about the Airport wishing the Airport every success in the future. Members considered some of the comments received.

Noise Monitoring Workshops

In the New Year Robin Hood Airport would be hosting Noise Workshops in partnership with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, to provide residents with an opportunity to view data and ask questions about aviation and aircraft noise. Representatives from the Noise Monitoring Sub Committee would be invited to assist in promoting these workshops.

4 COMMUNITY FUND

The Noise Charging Policy formed part of the Airports Quiet Operations Policy. It was a mechanism by which the Airport could apply a financial penalty to those operators whose aircraft when departing the Airport produced noise levels which were in excess of noise levels agreed with Doncaster MBC.

Income generated from the Policy would be donated to "the Community Fund". The Community Fund would be a registered charity and would be administered by the Airport and the Chair of the Airport Consultative Committee. The Fund would support local projects benefiting the community and the environment.

The Airport had to date donated in excess of £100,000 over the last five years to local community groups.

5 AIRPORT COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Sharon Bennett reported on the following:

Community Engagement

The group was being established to pull together the work of Renaissance South Yorkshire and the Strategic Economic Zone's Community Engagement Worker. The group would concentrate on local employment issues, and would not duplicate the work of the ACC and its Sub Committees.

The group would comprise of local community representatives and Directions Finningley, the Airport based recruitment, training and educational agency.

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Educational Visits to Robin Hood Airport

Since the Airport opened, there had been approximately 100 requests from schools to visit the site.

The hope was to ensure that any visit by a school held some educational value. A range of educational visit programmes were currently being devised with Directions Finningley to offer something for children of all age ranges. It was proposed that visits would range from a half day visit to two days. The visits would include talks from various partners and stakeholders from within the Airport.

Interaction with Students.

Communication from students was ongoing, particularly those in further or higher education requesting information or data to assist in studies. The Airport always tried to accommodate such requests. Staff had recently received visits from media, film and journalism students wishing to conduct interviews with staff or film activity at the Airport.

Members thanked Sharon for her report and welcomed these initiatives.

6 HERITAGE MEMORIAL – PROGRESS REPORT

Alan Tolhurst informed the Sub Committee of the latest position in respect of the RAF Heritage Memorial. The dedication ceremony was to take place on 31 March 2006.

Members welcomed the progress to date and looked forward to the outcome of the project.

7 MEMBERS QUESTIONS

- (i) **Rail Link to Airport** – Peter Nears confirmed that whilst the formal planning application had not been submitted to Doncaster MBC as yet, it would in the very near future. A planning application had been submitted for a 100 bed hotel on the estate it was hoped that work would commence during April/May 2006.

David Ryall outlined the work that was currently taking place to develop the Business Park on the Airport Estate. It was agreed that the proposed plans for the development of the Business Park would be attached to the minutes.

- (ii) **Mosham Road/Gatehouse Lane** – Peter Nears confirmed that work was taking place to alter the curb line at this junction following concerns raised by motorists.