

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

3/5/06

ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE

3 MAY 2006

PRESENT:- Councillor Yvonne Woodcock (in the Chair),
Martin Gold (Vice-Chair),
Alan Tolhurst (Chairman ACC),
Councillor Barbara Hoyle (Doncaster MBC),
Councillor Marilyn Cockett (Auckley Parish Council),
Councillor Jennifer Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council),
Councillor Bill Higgins (Tickhill Town Council),
Councillor Norma McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council),
Councillor Eddie Durdy (Hatfield Town Council),
Councillor Paula Haigh (Rossington Parish Council),
Councillor Ben Slade (Maltby Town Council),
Councillor Robert Gleadhill (Finningley Parish Council),
Councillor Peter Farrell (Armthorpe Parish Council),
Lynn Hunter (Auckley Residents In Partnership),
David Ryall and Clare Wilson (RHADS),
Peter Nears (Peel Holdings),
Martin McCarthy (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat),

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Robert Brown (Blyth Parish Council) and Councillor Stan Dixon (Austerfield Parish Council).

It was reported that Councillor Dixon had recently undergone a major operation. The Chairman asked the Secretary to write to Councillor Dixon offering the best wishes of the Sub-Committee for his speedy recovery.

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED – The minutes of the last meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 21 February 2006 were considered and agreed and the following points raised:

- i) South Yorkshire Forest - As part of the Airport's commitment to environmental sustainability it was confirmed that a campaign titled 'Last Call' would operate from all three of Peel's Airports. A six foot high box would be situated within the terminal buildings and would request travellers to make a contribution to offset the carbon emissions of aircraft travel. For every one pound donated by travellers this would be matched by the airports operator up to a significant limit.
- (ii) Road Signage - It was confirmed that with the exception of a stretch of the A1 close to Leeds all Highways Agency signage was now in place. The yellow and

**ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER/SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE
3/5/06**

black directional signs within Doncaster MBC highways authority area would now be phased out over a period of time.

- (iii) Viewing site – Old Bawtry Road – it was confirmed that the Airport was working closely with the Friends of Doncaster Sheffield Airport (FODSA) to ensure that the problems experienced with litter at this site be resolved. FODSA had kindly agreed to undertake litter picks to assist in alleviating the problem.

2 AIRPORT OPERATORS REPORT

David Ryall, Managing Director of Robin Hood Airport, gave a presentation on the first year's operation of the airport.

He was pleased to report that in excess of 850,000 passengers had passed through the terminal building during the airports first 12 months of operation.

The Airport operated 43 routes and served 23 countries. In addition, it was reported that during the first 12 months the Airport had already developed an inbound market of 12% of it's passenger through-put on some routes. The figure for Liverpool John Lennon Airport was 14%, and as much as 40% on some routes, which confirmed the potential for inbound tourism in this region. The Airport was already attracting inbound business and leisure travellers with Dublin the top inbound arrival.

A further indicator of the income generation an airport of this nature could bring to the region was highlighted in the fact that principal hotels within close proximity to the airport had recorded an 80-85% full occupancy rate for the period since the airport opened. Responding to market demands, it was reported that the number of charter seats would increase by 50% over the coming year. More low-cost schedule services were to be introduced. Ryanair were operating 2 new services, one to Pisa commencing on 14 September 2006 and the other to Barcelona (Gerona) from 31 October 2006.

The Airport was already becoming a hub for the cruise line business. It was reported that Sheffield was second only to Southampton in terms of the number of people taking cruises. At the start of 2007 wide bodied aircraft would be employed to support this business and it was hoped that this particular venture would continue to develop. The Airport had already contacted major businesses throughout the region to obtain their views and requirements on business travel. This information would be shared with airlines to consider the provision of these services. It was stressed that this was not just a "bucket and spade airport" and that it was a lready clear there was a significant market and the potential for a greater market to support the business traveller.

The Thomson Group accounted for between 75% and 80% of passengers coming through Robin Hood Airport. In terms of the number of flights that Thomson's

**ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER/SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE
3/5/06**

operated, Robin Hood Airport currently stood at number 6 and at one stage last week were only 10 flights short of Thomson departures from Gatwick Airport.

It was reported that from this weekend a Boeing 767 would operate from the airport to accommodate the long haul flight to Florida, the Dominican Republic and Cancun in Mexico.

With regard to employment opportunities the airport generated, it was reported that nearly 800 jobs had been created on the Airport site. 85% of those employed lived within a 40 minutes journey of the airport. The airport was working closely with Directions Finningley, the employment agency established to support and develop job creation opportunities within the aviation industry.

Following the first anniversary celebrations last week, Members listened to a radio report chronicling the first years' success of Robin Hood Airport.

The Committee thanked David Ryall and congratulated staff at the Airport for the success for its first year operation.

Members asked a number of questions:

- (i) Air Bridge access to aircraft - David Ryall confirmed that owing to the time taken to attach Air Bridge walkways to aircraft, the low cost airlines preferred the use of steps. The reason they were still in operation at other airports was more down to the legacy of infrastructure that had been in place prior to the boom in low cost air travel. The Airport had a range of steps which would allow easy access and departure from aircraft of all types. The airport also had hydraulic platforms which would allow easy access for people with mobility difficulties.
- (ii) Freight - It was confirmed that the Airport was still in dialogue with British Airways and other freight operators with a view to expanding this area of business.
- (iii) Disabled Travellers – David Ryall confirmed that the Airport was fully DDA compliant. A good exercise in testing these arrangements had occurred last year when a number of flights taking disabled pilgrims to Lourdes had departed from the airport.

3 AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS

The Sub-Committee considered a number of developments that were taking place in and around the Airport site. Plans were available for inspection and Peter Nears of Peel Holdings answered Members questions. The Schemes included:

- a sixty two acre Business Park

**ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER/SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE
3/5/06**

- a Railway Station on the Doncaster to Lincoln line to serve the terminal building and for use by members of the local community
- a 100 room hotel and
- a new access road from Hurst Lane. This would incorporate a wooded recreational area, footpath and cycle way.

In addition the Airport was working closely with members of the local community to refurbish the Community Centre in Auckley. Planning permission had already been sought and whilst an objection had been raised by Sport England it was hoped that once they were in receipt of all information this objection would be withdrawn.

It was agreed that the Secretary on behalf of the Sub -Committee would write to Sport England outlining the proposals for the Community Centre and recreational facilities at this site.

4 COMMUNITY FUND

The Community Fund had been established by the airport to further links between the airport and local communities who supported local projects. For a number of years now the airport had given support to a number of local projects and initiatives. The fund now placed that support within a more formal structure and would allow the airport to better manage the process and to integrate it with certain environmental charging policies the airport was now introducing.

The funding criteria covered the following:-

- Youth projects related to educational sport.
- Community development projects.
- Small scale local regeneration projects.
- Environmental or conservation projects, including nature conservation/heritage.

The Sub-Committee welcomed the introduction of the Community Fund and wished it success.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Tourism

Members of the Sub-Committee expressed dismay at the delay in providing tourist information literature at the Airport. Councillors Woodcock and Hoyle agreed to take this matter up with Doncaster Council and tourist information providers in the region in the hope that action could be taken quickly to resolve this issue.

ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER/SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE
3/5/06

(ii) Avery House (corner of Gate House Lane)

Martin Gold reported that a number of children were gaining access to this property and causing damage. Peter Nears thanked him for this information and agreed to take action.

6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee's Sub-Committee would take place on **Wednesday 6 September 2006 at 2.00pm at the Airport.**

WP046249
5/5/06