

ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT DONCASTER SHEFFIELD CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT

21 MARCH 2007

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst (Chairman).
Cllr Barry Johnson (DMBC),
Cllr Yvonne Woodcock (DMBC) (Chair, Community Sub-Committee),
Cllr Pat Bartlett (DMBC) (Chair, Noise Monitoring Sub Committee),
Neville Dearden (Doncaster Chamber),
Andrew Bosmans (FODSA),
Tony Storey OBE (Hayfield School),
Cllr Barbara Hoyle (DMBC),
Cllr Glynn Robinson (RMBC),
Cllr Keith Isard (Bassetlaw District Council),
Cllr Paula Haigh (Rossington Parish Council),
Karen Hodgson (Operations Director, Directions Finningley),
David Ryall (Managing Director, Robin Hood Airport),
Martin McCarthy (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat).

Apologies for absence were received from:- Cllr Mick Jameson (DMBC),
Cllr Ken Sanderson (BMBC), Cllr Robert MacDonald (SCC), Cllr Norma
McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Cllr Chris Underwood-Frost
(Lincolnshire County Council), Cllr Shelia Place (Nottinghamshire County
Council) and Caroline Flint (Member of Parliament).

In attendance:- Jim Bamford (Nottinghamshire County Council).

1 **MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

(i) **Annual General Meeting – 25 January 2007**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee held on 25 January 2007 be considered and agreed subject to the inclusion of apologies from Tony Storey and Cllr Pat Bartlett being recorded as present at the meeting.

(ii) **Extra Ordinary Meeting – 28 February 2007**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee held on 28 February 2007 be considered and agreed subject to the inclusion of apologies from Tony Storey and Cllr Keith Isard.

2 COUNCILLOR CHRIS UNDERWOOD-FROST

It was agreed that a letter on behalf of the Committee be sent to Councillor Underwood-Frost extending the Committee's best wishes for a speedy return to full health.

3 SECTION 40 – AIRPORT ACT

David Ryall confirmed that consultation was taking place with airport operators regarding the designation of airports. This related to the level of security and in particular policing presence required at respective airports. Whilst this particular consultation would not directly affect Robin Hood Airport at present, the Airport clearly had an interest in the outcome of this consultation. The issue centred on who should pay for the policing presence. At present it fell with the airport operator.

It was agreed that the Committee would be kept informed on progress regarding this particular issue.

4 AIRSPACE CHANGE PROPOSAL

The Committee considered a letter sent on its behalf by the Chairman, following the Extra Ordinary meeting, to the Airport operator.

The Committee congratulated the Airport on the extensive consultation process that had ensued and welcomed consideration of the outcome of this proposal.

5 PRESENTATION – DIRECTION FINNINGLEY

Karen Hodgson, Operations Director at Directions Finningley cic, gave a presentation on the work of the organisation and highlighted the work on which they were currently engaged.

Directions Finningley are located on the Airport site and clearly recognised it as a key driver for economic development in the Yorkshire and Humber Region and beyond. A fundamental objective of the organisation was to ensure that local businesses and people gained maximum benefit from its existence.

In addition to this, Directions Finningley cic was establishing a regional aviation academy to serve the North of England and to work in partnership with Peel Airports to deliver this objective as part of the Airport's Master Plan.

The organisation had to date designed and delivered the UK's first publicly funded Aircraft Engineering Apprenticeship Programme. 700 applications had been received for an 8 place programme. It was pleasing to report that all 8 successful applicants had completed their training and were working in the aviation industry across Europe.

Directions Finningley offered a wide range of other training programmes related to aviation and work on an airport through its partners and other specialist training providers.

The Committee were already aware of the excellent facilities at Meteor House. In addition, Hangar 3 on the Airport site had been leased for a 10 year period to provide a wide range of specialist training facilities including - engineering workshops, an HS748 (fully operational aircraft) a B727 Cabin Simulator, DC10 Door Trainer, high spec teaching rooms, a technical library, meeting rooms and office accommodation. Further developments will offer up to 30 Business Start up units.

As a result of this success, the organisation was seeking to extend their partnership arrangements and further develop business opportunities. Directions Finningley continued to grow and engage at a regional and national level, Directions have submitted a bid to DfES to become the UK's National Skills Academy for Aviation (NSAA).

In addition, a new workbook linked to the 14-16 schools curriculum has been developed in partnership with Rotherham LEA, which would support educational visits to the Airport. Elected Members discussed the extent to which their respective local education authorities had supported this initiative and urged Karen to contact them directly that if they could assist in further promoting this initiative amongst their authorities.

Tony Storey, as representative for Business Education South Yorkshire, agreed to discuss this issue with his colleagues and consider the extent to which further support might be provided.

Investment from Yorkshire Forward to secure the continued expansion of the Aviation Academy meant Directions were well placed to continue attracting inward investment to the Airport and local area.

The Committee thanked Karen for an excellent presentation and congratulated Directions Finningley on the tremendous work that had been achieved in such a relatively short space of time.

6 AIRPORT OPERATORS REPORT

Please see report appended to these minutes.

7 BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Neville Dearden, Chief Executive, Doncaster Chamber of Commerce, updated the Committee on the work of the Business Development Group over the last year and outlined the Group's proposed activities for 2007/08.

Working with Robin Hood Airport and a range of other partners during the year, Renaissance South Yorkshire had:-

- Established a Business Development Working Group to drive investment activity around the Airport.
- Delivered a programme of 5 awareness raising events, attended by over 400 delegates and undertaken other promotional campaigns.
- Proactively approached 900 businesses to promote the Airport Business Park.
- Pursued 19 investment enquiries for the Airport.
- Facilitated a match funded reciprocal trade mission to mark launch of flights to Katowice in Poland.
- Funded and managed the production of a Freight Throughput Study and part funded a Parkway Station Feasibility Study.
- Secured Yorkshire Forward Board approval for £2.9 m of feasibility funding to support the development of the Finningley and Rossington Route Regeneration Scheme (FARRRS).

Proposed activities for 2007/08 included:-

- The undertaking of a further 5 awareness events to raise the profile of the Airport as a location for investment.
- The production and issue of regular Airport newsletters.
- Identifying a further 25 investment enquiries for the Airport.
- Obtain ERDF funding for the development of the Directions Finningley Aviation Academy.
- Support partners in developing opportunities for inbound tourist development.

The Committee congratulated Neville and his colleagues for the work they had already undertaken. It was clearly evident that through collaborative partnership working at a local, sub-regional and regional level, Robin Hood Airport would continue to develop as a key economic driver for the region.

Neville thanked Andrew Bosmans, FODSA, for the generous offer of support with any awareness raising campaigns that might take place in the future.

Following discussion, it was agreed that Richard Jones from the South Yorkshire Destinations Partnership be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee and give a presentation on the work of this organisation.

8 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

It was confirmed that the minutes of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee and Community Sub-Committee meetings held on 13 June 2006 would be available shortly.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Passenger Numbers – David Ryall was pleased to report the latest statistics regarding passenger numbers, which indicated a rise of 15.6% in February 2007 compared to the same period the previous year.
- (ii) Friends of Doncaster Sheffield Airport – Andrew Bosmans reported on a ceremony that had taken place at the Airport the previous day, in remembrance of a popular airport supporter, Ken Clark, who had died in April last year. Ken's abiding wish was to place a Yorkshire flag on the bronze statue of Robin Hood at its recent unveiling. FODSA thanked Alan Tolhurst for his attendance at the ceremony where a flag was indeed placed on the statue in memory of Ken.
- (iii) Airport Track Keeping System – David Ryall confirmed that the new primary radar equipment was now installed and undergoing commissioning prior to flight trials and formal adoption, once cleared by the CAA. Once operational the track-keeping system could then be installed.

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee would take place on 26 June 2007 at 10.30 am. Details of the venue would be confirmed nearer the date.

Appendix

Progress Summary

Business Development Working Group. In January 2006, Renaissance South Yorkshire (RSY) established and now co-ordinates the RHADS Business Development Working Group (BDWG) under the Chairmanship of Neville Dearden, CEO Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The BDWG comprises representatives from key public sector partners working together to progress the RHADS business development agenda. Key areas of activity have focused upon raising awareness of the airport, defining its advantages as an investment opportunity, supporting efforts to grow air freight traffic, proactive propositional marketing of the Airport business park.

Trade Links / Expansion of Airline Operations

At time of writing the Airport serves 47 destinations in 25 countries. The list attached is subject to change (up and down); however, it provides a snap-shot of what is currently on sale.

The BDWG organised and sponsored a two-way civic and trade mission between the Airport region (South Yorks and North Notts) and Katowice, Poland to commemorate the first Wizz Air flight in Sept 2006. Other missions are in the process of being organised for Islamabad and Toronto.

RSY and Alliance SSP sponsored a Doncaster Chamber Business Consultative Study which looked at domestic and European Demand for business flights to and from RHADS. The information is used by RHADS / partners when pitching for potential new routes.

Cargo and Freight Development

Meetings with cargo operators continue although the Airport has yet to secure any scheduled freight services. There continue to be ad hoc flights using various aircraft including an Antonov 124, the world's largest commercial aircraft type.

RSY commissioned research work to assess potential movement of freight in and out of the region through RHADS. It is hoped that the Report will prove valuable in determining what needs to be done in the Airport hinterland to capture the export / import business leaking from or through the region.

Inward Investment

RSY and DMBC continue to lead on the marketing and investment onto the business park. Protocol established between RSY, DMBC and the Airport and its agents is the means to share investment enquiries/coordinate marketing activity.

A proactive marketing campaign has been pursued during the year. Letters of introduction/follow up calls made to 880 companies on DMBC/aviation databases. Inserts about the Airport and Business Park have been included in the Financial Times newspaper and mainline rail stations / services. Marketing of RHADS has also appeared at London City Airport and on London Underground.

Business Support and Events

Large number of events held, including five events facilitated by RSY, and attended by c.400 representatives. All events have been organised to raise awareness of the Airport and Business Park. The main event drew together Chief Executives' of regional business and public sector organisations. The event, branded 'Explore New Business Horizons' was opened by Gillian Merron MP. Minister for Aviation.

Project Work

The work on the radar is continuing to move forward with on-going commissioning work which will be followed by flight trials. Most pleasingly, the coverage the radar is presenting is better than anticipated. The work to renew the aeronautical ground lighting has gone well and is expected to be completed by end-March 07 after which the night closure of the runway will be lifted. Once the radar work is complete the installation of the Cat IIIb ILS on RW 20 will commence following which you will be pleased to hear we are re-locating the Cat I ILS system to RW 02 which currently offers a non-precision approach.

The Airspace Change Process is well underway, albeit the Civil Aviation Authority has lifted the bar a couple of notches by increasing the stakeholders to be consulted which has added over 100 more consultees.

Airport Master Plan

Meetings continue to finesse the technical detail to be included and separately to agree the movement numbers with the Department for Transport. It is hoped the Plan will go to Public Consultation in mid-2007.

Events

The Robin Hood statue was unveiled on 28 February 2007, an event that received good media coverage and usefully refreshed awareness of the Airport in the minds of potential passengers. The Airport will be officially opened during a literally flying visit by HRH The Duke of York on 28 March 2007 followed one month later by the Airport notching up its second full year of commercial operation.

A synopsis of achievements to date is included below:

Pax Milestones

- 100,000 passengers in 2 months
- 250,000 passengers in 13 weeks
- 500,000 passengers in 6 months
- 840,000 passengers in the first 12 months of operation
- First long haul flights commenced 12 months after opening
- 1 million passengers within 60 weeks of opening
- Over 1.7 Million passengers since opening
- First Freight and Pax 747's to visit Yorkshire in over 20 years

Freight

- Over 1,000 tonnes of freight since opening
- Antonov-124 - world's largest commercial aircraft visited RHADS in Dec 06.

Job Creation

- Over 900 Staff on site – achieved in year 2, this level of job creation not expected until year 5.

Other achievements

- Award Winning 2,500 Space Car Park - One of the safest places to park in the UK.
- RHADS was short listed as a finalist for the Best UK Airport in the recent Travel Trade Gazette Awards 2006 (along with only 5 other UK Airports)
- Since August 06 – RHADS and the South Yorkshire Forrester launched a Carbon Neutral Scheme Peel Airports are the first Airport Group to introduce such a scheme
- Security providers G4S have been recognised for their work at RHADS and staff have been recognised by the British Security Industry Association (BSIA).
- Awarded a Commendation in the 2006 RTPI Planning Awards
- Awarded the “Outstanding Contribution Award” by Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2006)

Airlines

There are now 8 different Airlines routinely using Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield.

The Top 5 Routes from Robin Hood Airport since opening are:

- Dublin
- Alicante
- Malaga
- Prague
- Jersey

Passenger Feedback:

During a recent passenger survey (January 07) 98% of passengers thought their airport experience to be either “Excellent” or “Very Good” and would be “Very Likely” or “Likely” to use the airport again!

Catchment Info

The airport has firmly established itself within a wide catchment area. Almost 60% of passengers using the airport are from within South Yorkshire, but passengers are also being drawn from Humberside, North Yorkshire and West Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and further afield.

Destinations	Countries
Amsterdam	Austria
Alicante	Barbados
Barcelona (Gerona)	Bulgaria
Belfast City	Canada
Bourgas	Cyprus
Bodrum	Czech Republic
Barbados	Egypt
Cancun	Finland
Chambery	France
Corfu	Greece
Dalaman	Italy
Dublin	Jamaica
Faro	Malta
Fort Lauderdale	Mexico
Gdansk	Netherlands
Geneva	Pakistan
Ibiza	Poland
Islamabad	Portugal
Jersey	Republic of Ireland
Katowice (Cracow)	Spain
Las Palmas	Switzerland
Lanzarote	Tunisia
Larnaca	Turkey
Lapland	UK
Mahon	USA
Malaga	
Malta	
Monastir	
Montego Bay	
Naples	
New Orleans	
Palma De Mallorca	

Paphos
Plovdiv
Prague
Pisa
Reus
Rhodes
Toronto
Turin
Sanford
Salzburg
Sharm E I Shiekh
Tenerife South
Varna
Verona
Zante