

ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

NOISE MONITORING SUB-COMMITTEE

27 SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENT: John McCabe (DMBC) (Chairman).
Lynn Hunter (Parish Council's Airport Liaison Group),
Councillor Patricia Schofield (DMBC), Councillor Yvonne Woodcock
(DMBC), Alan Tolhurst (Chairman, ACC), Marianne Stewart (DMBC),
Robert Cooke, Richard Massingham and Clare Wilson (RHADS),
Martin McCarthy (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Pat Bartlett (Chair).

1 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – The minutes of the last meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 13 June 2007 were considered and agreed and the following points raised:-

- (i) **Quite Operations Policy** - It was confirmed that Councillor Schofield's request for the Airport Consultative Committee to note a contravention of the Quite Operations Policy had not yet taken place owing to the cancellation of the last meeting of the ACC at the end of June as a result of the flooding that hit South Yorkshire. The Chairman of the Airport Consultative Committee, Alan Tolhurst, agreed to draw this matter to the attention of the ACC when it next met on 11 October 2007.
- (ii) **Portable Noise Monitor** – It was confirmed that as a result of one of the fixed noise monitors (Boston Park Farm) breaking down, the portable noise monitor was currently being used as a temporary replacement. The fixed noise monitor had been returned to the manufacturers in Denmark who were working on it.

Members noted the length of time it had taken to repair the monitor and suggested that a contingency plan be put in place should one of the noise monitors break down in the future.

It was hoped to have the monitor back in operation shortly, which would then free the portable noise monitor for use in local communities where complaints had been received.

2 **NOISE MONITORING REPORT**

Clare Wilson, Environment and Communities Manager at Robin Hood Airport, presented the Noise Monitoring Report for the period June 2007 to August 2007.

ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD ACC
NOISE MONITORING SUB-COMMITTEE
27/9/07

- (i) Correlation of Monthly Noise Reports – As previously mentioned, the breakdown of the fixed noise monitor at Boston Park Farm had created problems in respect of the correlation of air traffic movements and noise movements. Information had however been collated up to June 2007.
- (ii) Runway Utilisation – The preferred Runway Policy was being adhered to in that the number of aircraft movements to the North was greater than that to the South. It was noted that there had been a marginal increase of arrivals to the South during the month of August and this had generated a number of complaints from residents in Bawtry. The increased number of arrivals to the South was partly due to wind direction and work on the airfield, forcing movements to the South.

It was agreed that a layman's explanation of Runway 20 and Runway 02 in terms of direction be provided to members of the Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee to assist their understanding of runway utilisation.

- (iii) Noise Complaints – The number of complaints was gradually falling in relation to the number of air transport movements. The majority of complaints arose from residents in Bawtry and isolated individuals in Hatfield Woodhouse and Moorends.

Noise complaints peaked in August 2007 due to an approximate 15% increase in arrivals from the South. Overall, noise complaints in 2007 compared against 2006 had decreased.

The Airport fully expected noise complaints to rise during this period due to the increase in the number of flights as a result of the summer schedule. It was also noted that residents often spent more time at home in the garden or sleeping with windows open.

Councillor Schofield suggested that the reason why complaints had fallen compared to the previous year may partly be as a result of people's lack of confidence in the noise complaints procedure. She had received a number of complaints from residents regarding the "Phone Line" and an inability to leave a message.

Clare confirmed that this matter was currently under review and it was hoped to install new equipment that would provide greater capacity for the monitoring and recording of calls from members of the public. She emphasised that it was important that residents did contact the Airport to highlight incidents were they unhappy with aircraft movements. It was only through logging such incidents that the Airport was able to take action and identify any trends in terms of whether or not for example it was a specific airline or a flight that was generating most complaints.

ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD ACC
NOISE MONITORING SUB-COMMITTEE
27/9/07

Robert Cooke, Operations Director at the Airport, confirmed that work had been taking place over the summer on the runway, which had meant a slight increase of arrivals from the South and a resulting increase in the number of complaints received from residents in Bawtry. Flights arriving from the North currently had the advantage of being able to make use of Airport's Instrument Landing System. This equipment was now being extended to assist arrivals from the South and it was hoped that this would help reduce complaints regarding aircraft movements from the South.

John McCabe, DMBC Environmental Health, confirmed that positive working relationships existed with the Airport operator. The Council did on occasions visit residents who made noise complaints. In addition, DMBC worked closely with the Airport to ensure that residents were kept informed or given an explanation in respect of their complaint.

- (iv) Sound Insulation Grant Scheme – It was reported that the Airport had surveyed over 40 properties in February and March 2007 with a further 10 surveys taking place during August. Of the 50 or so properties surveyed, only 6 residents had so far proceeded with the Scheme. The Airport were currently assessing why only a small proportion of residents were taking up the Scheme. The common response was that residents felt that noise was not a big an issue for them as they first expected. Residents did of course have 10 years in which to make a decision as to whether or not to take up the Airport's offer of sound insulation. Other residents had stated that they were not happy with the ventilation unit which was a requirement as part of the Scheme.

The Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee supported the Airport's policy of not reimbursing residents who had had double glazing installed independently of the Sound Insulation Grant Scheme.

- (v) Night Noise – Each aircraft was allocated a noise value (quota count point – QCP), ranging from 0.5 to 16. The Airport was allocated 3500 QCP's for the first summer period rising to 5000 QCP's in the fifth summer season on a pro-rata basis. Figures indicated that the Airport was no where near reaching its quota count points totals for the period.
- (vi) Night Noise Sanctions Policy – It was reported that further discussions had taken place with Doncaster MBC regarding a review of the policy as a result of the Airspace Change Proposals. Both parties had agreed to maintain the current Night Noise Sanctions Level limits. A review of the policy would take place again in October 2008, taking into account data from the Noise and Track Keeping System and the proposed airspace changes.

- (vii) Noise and Track Keeping System – It was reported that the Airport had installed the Noise and Track Keeping System. The System was in the process of commissioning; although problems were being experienced with the AMOSS feed which supplied the aircraft information to be correlated with radar information. The Airport had submitted a Track Keeping Referral System to Doncaster MBC for approval.

Again, it was pointed out that the Airport was installing this equipment well in advance of the requirement stipulated by Doncaster MBC in its planning agreement.

The Sub-Committee thanked Clare for her report.

3 ANNUAL NOISE REPORT

The Noise Monitoring Sub-Committee considered a draft of the Airport's Annual Noise Report for the period April 2006 to March 2007, prior to consideration by the main Airport Consultative Committee.

The Sub-Committee welcomed the report. Two minor amendments were noted.

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Winter Programme – It was confirmed that the Winter Programme of flights would commence at the end of October.
- (ii) Freight Transport – It was confirmed that freight operations were developing well at the Airport. Excellent use had been made of its facilities during the recent St Leger and York Ebor Racing Festivals. Work would continue to develop this area of the Airport's operation.

WP046543a
2/10/07