

ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY SUB-COMMITTEE

27 SEPTEMBER 2007

PRESENT: Cllr Yvonne Woodcock (DMBC) (in the Chair).
Cllr E Durdy (Hatfield Town Council), Cllr Ben Slade (Maltby Town Council), Cllr Jennifer Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council), Cllr Norma McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Cllr Paula Haigh (Rossington Parish Council), Cllr Robert Brown (Blyth Parish Council), Cllr Barry Johnson (DMBC), Cllr Angela White (ERNLLCA), Cllr E Lodge (Austerfield Parish Council), Alan Tolhurst (Chairman, ACC), Clare Wilson (RHADS), Martin McCarthy (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat).

Apologies for absence were received from Caroline Flint MP, Alan Cropley (Bawtry Town Council) and Cllr Keith Robinson (Finningley Parish Council).

1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed back Councillor Ben Slade as representative of Maltby Town Council.

2 **MINUTES**

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

- (i) **Freight Transport** – Whilst no specific targets had been set, it was pleasing to report that this was an area of the Airport's operation that was expanding well and attracting new customers.
- (ii) **Sustainability Appraisal Report – Airport Masterplan** – It was hoped that a response to the Consultation Document would be forthcoming at the next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee.
- (iii) **Training Flights – Wroot** – Further to minute 7(ii) of the last meeting, Councillor White reported that residents of Wroot were becoming increasingly concerned at the number of training flights taking place at the Airport which resulted in significant aircraft movements over the village.

Clare Wilson, Environment Co-ordinator at the Airport outlined the policy in respect of training flights. She further agreed to the siting of the portable noise monitor in Wroot to record noise levels, once available. Residents were asking why training flights could not extend their circuit thereby flying over open land and avoiding villages such as Wroot. Clare pointed out that one consideration was the proximity of the Sandtoft Airfield and encroachment on their airspace.

Councillor White acknowledged this but asked that more consideration be given to local residents who were having to put up with significant numbers of training flights over a sustained period. There was a lot of frustration within the community that the Track Keeping System was not fully operational and therefore could not provide information as to the flight paths of such aircraft.

It was reiterated that the equipment was now installed and undergoing commissioning. The Airport had installed this equipment well in advance of the requirement set out in the planning agreement with Doncaster MBC.

RESOLVED – That a letter be sent to the Airport operator on behalf of the Community Sub-Committee seeking clarification as to the degree of flying over the village of Wroot and the possibility of an alternative circuit being considered to avoid the regular over-flying of the village.

- (iv) Operators Report – It was pleasing to report an increase of 20% in passenger throughput for the month of August compared to the same period the previous year. New routes were being added to the schedule at the Airport. Thomsonfly would commence flights to Geneva shortly and Ryanair had announced an additional route to Alicante. Wizzair had recently announced two further routes to Poland.

A team from the airport were currently attending an international conference which provided an opportunity for airport operators to work with airlines in developing new routes.

Hirst Lane had re-opened on 2 September and it was hoped that the link road from the airport to Hirst Lane would be opened during January 2008. The hotel group Ramada Encore had been appointed to manage the new hotel at the Airport. Building would commence shortly and it was hoped that the hotel would be open in autumn 2008.

The Civil Aviation Authority were currently undertaking a Surface Access Survey at the Airport looking at passenger modes of transport to the Airport. It was pleasing to report that at present around 8% of people made their journey by public transport, which compared favourably to airports. The Airport operator in conjunction with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, were currently looking at the introduction of a service to the Airport from Sheffield. It was hoped that this would be operational by April 2008.

It was confirmed that a tree planting exercise would take place on the east bund of the Airport, during October/November. The last crop of trees had failed. This exercise would include a watering programme to help ensure the trees survival.

It was confirmed that in respect of the link road from Junction 3 of the M18 through to the Airport, programme entry had been obtained from the Department for Transport and officials had met with Rosie Winterton MP, Transport Minister, to consider the matter further. Members discussed the various routes to the Airport from the M18. It was pleasing to report that whilst traffic volume had increased slightly, this was not proving a significant problem to communities on route. Councillor Slade asked that consideration be given to providing signage from Junction 1 of the M18, which would then bring traffic in through Maltby providing much needed income to businesses in the town. Clare Wilson confirmed that as part of the planning agreement with DMBC, a signage policy had been implemented, although this was currently under review. Sub-Committee members were urged, through the Secretary, to inform the Airport of any concerns regarding signage in order that they be considered as part of this review.

It was reported that people visiting the Airport but not flying, could no longer use the facilities upstairs in the terminal building. This had been introduced partly for security reasons and partly because a number of passengers were not transferring to the Departure Lounge in time which had resulted in some flights being delayed. A permanent viewing area within the terminal was however being considered.

It was reported that Police Community Support Officers were providing a visible presence within the terminal building. Six officers together with a sergeant and community support officers used an office in the terminal building. These officers also patrolled neighbouring communities as part of their regular beat.

It was unfortunate but as a result of the recent incident at Glasgow Airport large concrete blocks had been positioned at the main access points to the terminal building.

It was agreed that Michael Clark, Security Manager at the Airport, be invited to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee to give a presentation on security arrangements.

3 COMMUNITY FUND APPLICATIONS

It was reported that the Airport had only received two further applications to the Community Fund since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee. At present, the Community Fund's balance stood at £7,741. Clare Wilson urged Members of the Sub-

Committee to promote the Fund's existence and to encourage applications in accordance with the Fund's criteria.

4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Long Haul Flights – It was confirmed that some of the long haul flights would not operate from next year. Members asked that where practicable consideration be given to the cost of flights as some did appear to be significantly more than the cost of flying for example from Manchester Airport.
- (ii) Olympics 2012 – Clare Wilson agreed to report back at the next meeting on the work the Airport was undertaking in respect of attracting business generated as a result of the 2012 London Olympics.
- (iii) Austerfield Lane – Clare Wilson agreed to raise with DMBC Highways incidents of motorists ignoring the stop warning lights on Austerfield Lane when aircraft were departing or landing.

It was felt that perhaps motorists were ignoring the lights as a result of seeing "aircraft spotters" positioned/parked at the end of the runway in the area deemed as unsafe for traffic movements.

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