



**ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT**

**AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**18 APRIL 2013**

PRESENT: Mr A Tolhurst OBE (Chair)  
Mr A Bosmans (FODSA), Mrs L Daffern (Robin Hood Airport), B Hoyle (Doncaster MBC), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), Councillor D R Pressley (Bassetlaw District Council), Town Councillor P Scholey (Maltby Town Council), A Shirt (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat), Mr A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio), Y D Woodcock (Doncaster MBC) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: Mr J Bamford, Councillor L Bramall, Mr P Cole, Mayor P Davies, Mr D Fell, Mr S Gill, T Lindop, Councillor M Quigley MBE and Councillor P Schofield

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed Members to the April meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **MINUTES OF THE ACC ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2013**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2013 be agreed as a correct record.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

i) **Regional Tourism – Pilgrim Fathers**

The Chair informed the meeting that he had discussed the issue regarding a Pilgrim Fathers trail with Colin Joy at Doncaster Tourism. It was noted that the 'Pilgrim Fathers Group' were looking to create a trail that also included the Selby area.

Councillor Pressley suggested that the Chair made contact with Robert Wilkinson at Bassetlaw Development Agency to discuss the trail further.

ii) **Phase 3 Business Park Planning Application**

It was noted that planning applications had been submitted to Doncaster MBC regarding the housing development off Hurst Lane and a community sports centre.

iii) Letter from Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Chair brought to the attention of the Committee a letter which had been received from Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry reiterating their support for Robin Hood Airport as it strives to grow in difficult economic times.

The letter went on to explain that since the last ACC meeting there had been more debate on the issue of Sheffield Airport. Furthermore the letter set out a brief on the possibility of a private organisation taking over the airport.

The Committee welcomed the support from Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

iv) Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise

The Chair informed the Committee that he had been invited to attending a meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013 which Doncaster Chamber would be hosting between local businesses and partners and the Department for Transport (DfT).

The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate a discussion between businesses and partners within the Sheffield City Region and the DfT about the UK's future aviation strategy. The meeting would hopefully provide an opportunity to appraise the DfT of the City Region's views and needs in relation to aviation and to address key issues such as:

1. The importance of aviation in supporting the region's manufacturing, logistics and tourism sectors.
2. The strategic importance of Doncaster Sheffield Airport to the region and country.
3. The need for full connectivity between aviation and other modes of transport (particularly bearing in mind the advent of High Speed Rail).
4. Air Passenger Duty and other taxes on the sector.
5. Meeting the UK's air capacity requirements and the need for a clear UK Aviation Strategy that meets business needs.

v) Wind Farms – Selby and Rotherham

Councillor Pearson informed the meeting that Selby District Council's Planning Committee was shortly to decide whether proposals for a 14-turbine wind farm should be approved or rejected. It was highlighted that the Airport had not responded to the consultation. **ACTION: L Daffern to chase-up.**

Councillor Schoely reported that Doncaster MBC were also consulting on a plan for a wind farm for Moor Lane between Ravenfield and Braithwell.

4 MAJOR HUBS V REGIONAL AIRPORTS DEBATE

The Chair reported upon a recent article in 'The Times' had stated that "Britain has twice as many airports as it needs, the legacy of a short-lived boom in budget travel,

according to the head of Birmingham's international hub". "Paul Kehoe had suggested that airport such as Norwich, Blackpool, Doncaster and Middlesbrough face an uphill battle to justify their existence".

L Daffern informed the Committee that Robin Hood / Peel were joining other regional airports to make a joint submission to the DfT regarding the importance of regional airports and the need for government policy to reflect this.

The Committee noted that following the recent change of ownership back to the Peel Group, there had been a real focus and commitment from Peel to take Robin Hood Airport forward into the future.

A Bosmans informed the meeting that the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) were currently working with Transport for London and the Mayor to gain a feel of aviation regionally. A number of events were currently being arranged.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

## 5 AVIATION POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Chair informed the meeting that the Government's Aviation Policy Framework, had recently been published, which replaced the 2003 Air Transport White Paper which set out the previous government's aviation strategy.

The Framework set out the government's policy to allow the aviation sector to continue to make a significant contribution to economic growth across the country.

The framework avoids the issue of airport capacity in the south east, leaving this to the Davies Commission which is not due to report fully until 2015.

The framework aims to:

- Limit and, where possible, reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise through better technology, implementation of noise 'envelopes' around airports and further use of noise abatement operational procedures.
- Ensure that the aviation sector makes a significant and cost effective contribution towards reducing global emissions, for example through working with ICAO towards a global deal on aviation CO2 emissions.
- Encourage the aviation industry and local stakeholders to strengthen and streamline the way they work together.
- Make better use of existing runway capacity through improving transport routes to airports, liberalising the UK aviation market to encourage foreign airlines to develop routes from our less congested airports and encouraging the operators of our busiest airports to consider how their scarce capacity might be utilised more effectively.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

6 SUSTAINABLE AVIATION - SPRING 2013 UPDATE

The Committee considered the contents of the Spring 2013 'Sustainable Aviation Update' produced by the Sustainable Aviation Group.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Spring 2013 'Sustainable Aviation Update' be noted.

7 MINUTES OF THE ACC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2013

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual General meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee be noted.

8 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 MARCH 2013

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 21 March 2013 be noted.

9 UKACC'S NEWS ARTICLES

The Committee noted that UKACCS had issued the following news articles:

- Air Traffic Management: UK Airlines poised for £120m NATS Sale (07.01.13)
- Travel Weekly: Airports Group Laments Lack of Aviation Focus in Government (08.01.13)
- Thorne and District Gazette: x19 Marks the Spot for Free Wi-Fi (11.01.13)
- Robin Hood Airport: Cargo Growth for South Yorkshire's Airport (15.01.13)
- Travel Weekly: House of Lords Backs Review of APD (30.01.13)
  
- Doncaster Free Press: Airport's Partnership (03.02.13)
- Express and Star: Axing APD 'would make £16bn for UK (04.02.13)
- Wandsworth Guardian: Night Flight Noise Can Cause Serious Health Problems, Says CAA (05.02.13)
- Robin Hood Airport: Northern Lights Available at Peak Time (22.02.13)
- Travelmole: ABTA Tells Airports how to Spend their Money (22.02.13)
- Travel Weekly: APD Rise Threatens to Make UK Unaffordable, warns lobby Group (25.02.13)
- BBC: Live Shells Handled at Doncaster Robin Hood Airport (25.02.13)
  
- The Telegraph: Poor Airport Connections loose UK Billions (04.03.13)
- South Yorkshire Times: Doncaster Robin Hood Airport Stages 'Disaster' as Training Exercise (07.03.13)
- The Star: Airports Could Work Together (12.03.13)
- Travelmole: Airlines call for end to APD 'nonsense' as budget approaches (18.03.13)
- CAA: Passenger numbers at UK Airports up 1.4 Million (18.03.13)
- Travelmole: Charter Passengers Cause most Airport Security Delays (20.03.13)
- Travelmole: Passenger Numbers at UK Airports Still Below Peak (20.03.13)
- Travelmole: ABTA Calls for Improved Transport Links and Airport Capacity (20.03.13)

- UK Airports Information Blog: AOA responds to confirmation of 2013 APD rise (20.03.13)
- BATA Comment on Publication of Aviation Policy Framework (25.03.13)
- The Press and Journal: Millions hit as airport tax goes up again (01.04.13)
- The Independent: Angry Voters Deluge MP's with Air Tax Complaints (01.04.13)
- *Which?* Flight taxes go up and Thomas Cook Refuses Refunds (05.04.13)
- Doncaster Free Press: Airport boss hits back at criticisms (05.04.13)

RESOLVED – That the news articles issued by UKACCS be noted.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Northern Lights Flight

The Committee noted that a “special” flight from the Airport had departed on 13 March to see the Northern Lights display. Members asked if the Airport could obtain details regarding where passengers had originated from to arrive at the Airport. **ACTION: L Daffern to obtain details.**

ii) Western Aviation – Publicity

T Storey suggested that to attract new passengers to use the Airport, could Western Aviation circulate publicity to schools, local groups etc regarding the services they could provide, for example school trips. **ACTION: L Daffern to forward suggestion to Western Aviation.**

iii) Agenda Items for Future Meetings

The Chair asked the Committee for agenda items which could be considered at future meetings.

The Committee suggested the following areas:

- Update on FARRRS
- Update on the Airport Master Plan (including details on the activity taking place around the airport i.e. in the hangars, onsite hotel and occupiers on the business park).

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on Thursday 25 July 2013 at 10:00 am in Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster.