



ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

17 APRIL 2014

PRESENT: A Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
Councillor B Barker (Bassetlaw District Council), A Bosmans (FODSA),
L Daffern (Robin Hood Airport), S Dishman (Doncaster Chamber of Commerce
and Enterprise), Mayor R Jones (Doncaster MBC),
Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council),
County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), M Di Salvatore
(West Lindsey District Council), Councillor P Schofield (Observer), A Shirt
(South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat), P Skelding (Nottinghamshire County
Council), A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio), Councillor Y D Woodcock (Doncaster
MBC) R Young (Doncaster MBC) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley
with Branton Parish Council).

Apologies were received from: J Bamford (Nottinghamshire CC), Councillor
L Bramall (Sheffield CC), S Gill (RHADS), Councillor B Hoyle and
Councillor H McNamee (Doncaster MBC)

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

An extended welcome went to Richard Young, Business Development Tourism and
Visitor Economy Officer for Doncaster MBC.

2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2014**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2014 be agreed as
a correct record.

3 **MATTERS ARISING**

i) **New Airport Website**

The Committee were informed that the new website for Robin Hood Airport had
now been launched.

ii) **Connections with South East Asia**

It was noted that discussions continued at the Airport regarding connections to
South East Asia.

4 UPDATE FROM DONCASTER MBC TOURISM ON THE PILGRIM FATHERS COUNTRY TOUR

The Committee received an update from Richard Young in relation to the Pilgrim Fathers Country Tour.

The Committee was reminded that the Pilgrim Fathers Country Tour was one of the main attractions for visitors to the county. The use of the airport was a catalyst for increasing traffic and growth in the region.

It was highlighted that Doncaster MBC Tourism had been working alongside its counterparts in Nottinghamshire, Bassetlaw and Lincolnshire since 2006 on developing a Pilgrim Fathers Country trail.

Doncaster MBC were currently assisting the Pilgrim Fathers UK Origins Association in submitting a funding bid for Heritage Lottery Funding. The funding bid would enable the Association to develop a Pilgrim Fathers Country Tour brochure, along with developing a visitor attraction based at Austerfield.

If the funding bid was successful, a visitor centre would be constructed, expected to be opened in 2017, prior to the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers in 2020.

It was important that a Pilgrim Fathers “product” be developed (i.e. the brochure and visitor centre) in order for marketing the Pilgrim Country Tour to tourists and visitors. Within the next 5 years it was anticipated that an airline route from South America could be established with the Airport.

The Committee felt that it was not only important to stimulate growth around Doncaster, but also in all the areas in the wider heritage of the county.

Members were informed that a new art exhibition; ‘St. Helena’s Church and the Pilgrim Fathers’ would take place on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2014, at St. Helena’s Church, Austerfield.

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the update.

5 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

L Daffern, Head of Terminal Services and Security provided the Committee with an update regarding the commercial, marketing and operational issues at RHADS. In summary it was reported that:-

- Steve Gill and Chris Harcombe had attended the Routes Europe conference in France at the beginning of April. Their attendance at the conference was to promote the airport and to make the case for new air services.
- The regulatory functions of the airport had recently transferred from the DfT to the CAA.
- Wizz Air had launched a new route to Bucharest, with flights every Monday and Friday, starting on 13 June 2014. Flights were now on sale.

- Wizz Air had also launched a new route to Riga, with flights twice a week on Mondays and Fridays, starting on 20 June 2014. Flights were now on sale.
- LinksAir had commenced with their Belfast City and Isle of Man routes on 14 April 2014.
- Discussions were taking place with an airline regarding flights to Aberdeen.
- Interviews had recently been held for an Environment and Communities Officer, to be based at the Airport. An individual had been successful, subject to references etc.
- The Airport would shortly be recruiting for an Engineering Manager.
- Dayle Hauxwell had now commenced in post as the Airport's Cargo Manager. Discussions were on-going with a number of potential operators.
- Members were made aware that the management of Manston Airport in Kent had issued its staff with details of a 45-day consultation to closure notice. It was noted that if the Airport did close, it may result in increased QC4 operations from Robin Hood Airport.

In relation to the Finningley and Rossington Regeneration Route Scheme (FARRRS), Mayor Jones reported that work on the scheme was expected to be completed on time by early 2016. Plans were also in place to obtain funding in 2015 for the remaining 2½ kilometres of the route from Parrott's Corner to the Airport.

A Tolhurst asked if Peel Airports had submitted any funding bids to the Government's regional air connectivity fund which had been set up to allow airports to apply for funding to entice airlines to set up new routes to places within the European Union. L Daffern reported that she was not aware if Peel Airports had submitted any bids, adding that she would obtain an update for the July meeting. **ACTION: L Daffern**

In relation to permanently basing the Vulcan at the Airport, it was reported that discussions continued between the Airport and Vulcan to the Sky Trust.

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that discussions were taking place between the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre and Vulcan to the Sky Trust regarding a programme for young engineers at primary school level.

S Dishman asked if an update could be provided regarding the businesses choosing to locate in the airport's business park. **ACTION: L Daffern to obtain an update for the July meeting.**

Mayor Jones informed the Committee that Doncaster MBC and its partners were currently bidding for both the establishment of an engineering academy and a rail academy.

A Storey asked if an update could be provided regarding the on-site hotel.

L Daffern reported that the hotel's occupancy rates had been particularly low; however, the Airport had recently been working with the hotel to develop a new "stay

and park” package for passengers in an attempt to generate business from passengers using the Airport.

S Dishman suggested that it may be appropriate to hold an annual logistics event at the Airport, once the infrastructure for FARRRS and the iPort was in place. The Committee commented that this was an excellent idea. **ACTION: L Daffern to forward the suggestion to S Gill.**

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

6 UK AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES LIAISON GROUP: RESPONSE ISSUED TO THE DFT ON THE GUIDELINES FOR AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

The Committee noted the UK Airport Consultative Committees Liaison Group’s response to the DfT’s request for comments on the draft updated guidelines for airport consultative committees.

A Bosmans informed the Committee that the Strategic Aviation Specialist Interests Group had also submitted a similar response to the DfT.

RESOLVED – That the response be noted.

7 MINUTES OF THE ACC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee held on 16 January 2014 be noted.

8 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 20 MARCH 2014

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 20 March 2014 be noted.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that arrangements were being made for a representative from Cessna to attend the July meeting to update the Committee on the work of their organisation.

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on Thursday 17 July 2014 at 10:00 am, in Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster.

CHAIR