



## **ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT**

### **AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**17 JULY 2014**

PRESENT: Alan 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), Councillor R Franklin (Barnsley MBC), S Gill (Robin Hood  
Airport), Councillor B Hoyle (Doncaster MBC), Councillor H McNamee  
(Doncaster MBC), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County  
Council), M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), A Shirt (Secretary,  
South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat), A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio),  
Councillor Y D Woodcock (Doncaster MBC) and  
Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: Councillor L Bramall, Mayor R Jones,  
Parish Councillor N McCarron, Councillor P J O'Connor, Councillor P Schofield  
and Councillor P Skelding

#### 1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

Councillor Robin Franklin was also welcomed to his first meeting.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

#### 2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair and Members congratulated A Shirt on the birth of his son.

The Chair reported that:

- i) The UKACC Annual meeting had been held in Gatwick on 11-12 June 2014.  
The key points out outcomes from the meeting would be further discussed at  
agenda item 8.
- ii) Back in March 2014, Members may recall that the Government had announced  
that a regional air connectivity fund had been set up to allow airports to apply for  
funding to entice airlines to develop new routes, where possible, as connections  
to major air travel hub airports.

It had now been confirmed that the Fund would only apply to regional airports  
with passenger numbers between 3 million and 5 million. Unfortunately, Robin  
Hood was excluded from consideration.

- iii) Back in January 2014, the Airports Commission had issued a call for evidence to inform study outputs for the feasibility work on an inner Thames Estuary airport proposal.

On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014 the Airports Commission had published four feasibility study reports. The first report looked into the environmental impact of the airport, which had stated that it would cost up to £2bn to provide alternative habitats for wildlife if the airport was to be built.

A Bosmans commented that the Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG) had stated that a new airport on the Thames Estuary would ensure low environmental impacts on people in terms of aircraft noise.

S Gill informed the Committee that the airport would be issuing a detailed reply to the Transport Select Committee's announcement on 10 July 2014 regarding an inquiry into smaller airports (those with fewer than 5 million passengers per annum). As well as general issues affecting smaller airports, the Transport Select Committee was particularly interested in receiving evidence on:

- The strategic importance of smaller airports and the extent to which smaller airports meet the needs of regional economies and provide efficient and effective services for the local communities in which they sit, and their impact on regional economic development and regeneration;
- The steps the Government is taking or could take to support smaller airports and aid diversification to ensure their longer-term viability;
- The effect of current local, regional, national and EU policy and regulations on the future of smaller airports, including policy on (a) air passenger duty, (b) route subsidies (e.g. use of public service obligations to maintain particular routes and other state aid, the Regional Air Connectivity Fund, etc.) and (c) housing and enterprise zones;
- Issues around competitiveness, rationalisation and commercial viability affecting smaller airports, including the importance of smaller airports in serving niche leisure and business markets and flight training and education ('general aviation') and providing dedicated capacity for cargo services, and the role that partners and airlines play in the delivery of such services; and
- The role of local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in ensuring smaller airports improve connectivity.
- Written submissions were requested by Friday 3 October 2014.

S Gill reported that Robin Hood Airport had joined a new Regional and Business Airport's lobby group for Airport's with passenger numbers fewer than one million per year. The aim of the Group was to lobby the Davies Commission and the Transport Select Committee with further evidence regarding smaller airports.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2014

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2014 be agreed as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Parish Councillor J Worthington was present at the meeting.

4 MATTERS ARISING

i) Pilgrim Fathers

Councillor Baker informed the meeting that he had recently met with officers from Bassetlaw DC to discuss the development of a Pilgrim Fathers product. It was concluded that there were a number of small scale activities taking place, however there was no co-ordination or joint approach to taking the initiatives further. In terms of “connectiveness” between the America and Doncaster it was questioned whether it was feasible to utilising the airport in future years.

S Gill indicated that he would be happy to facilitate a meeting with all interested parties to facilitate further discussion (providing that organisations contact details were provided).

Members suggested that the local Tourism Board's / Chairs of Austerfield and Scrooby Parish Council's be included in the discussions.

M Di Salvatore informed the meeting that Lincolnshire County Council were working on a tourism programme to attract American residents to visit Lincoln, suggesting that visitors to the UK could also be attracted to visit the Pilgrim Fathers at the same time during their visit.

It was agreed that further discussion takes place outside of the meeting between the Chair and S Gill. **ACTION: A Tolhurst / S Gill**

ii) Vulcan

S Gill informed the Committee that in relation to permanently basing the Vulcan at the airport, three options had been presented to the Vulcan to the Sky Trust; a decision was being awaited along with detailed designs for their future requirements.

5 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

RESOLVED – That the Committee note the following changes of membership on the Airport Consultative Committee:

- Barnsley MBC have appointed Councillor Robin Franklin (in place of Councillor B Mathers) and
- Lincolnshire County Council have appointed Councillor Pat J O'Connor to fill the current vacancy.

6 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

S Gill provided the Committee with an update regarding the commercial, marketing and operational issues at RHADS. In summary it was reported that:-

- TUI Travel Plc had announced an extra 30,000 through way seats this year. An extra 20,000 seats were planned for next summer with an additional 10,000 seats on its Sharm el Sheikh route.
- Wizz Air had launched a new route to Riga, with flights twice weekly (Monday and Friday's) which commenced on 20 June.
- LinksAir had recently launched new flights to Belfast City and the Isle of Man. The airport was providing on-going support to LinksAir following a challenging start. A marketing campaign for the Belfast City route had been sponsored by Visit Belfast and Robin Hood Airport.

A Bosmans informed the Committee that DJ and TV presenter Chris Evans had recently visited the airport so that he could fly out to the Isle of Man with LinksAir.

T Storey asked if press releases issued by the Airport could also be forwarded by email onto Committee members.

Members stated that they would welcome this. L Daffern agreed to liaise with the airport's Marketing Department and A Tolhurst / A Shirt regarding future press releases. **ACTION: L Daffern**

- Funding had been secured from the Local Growth Fund in connection with obtaining funding for the remaining 2 ½ kilometres of the the Finningley and Rossington Regeneration Route Scheme (FARRRS), from Parrott's Corner to the Airport.

L Daffern informed the Committee that Friends of Doncaster Sheffield Airport (FODSA) had recently become Ambassadors for the Airport. The Ambassadors role was to meet passengers upon arrival into the Terminal Building, answer any questions they may have, provide directions, as well as providing passenger assistance on the airside.

Excellent feedback had been received by the airport regarding the Ambassadors work. S Gill and L Daffern wished to record their thanks to FODSA for providing this valuable service. **ACTION: S Gill to arrange for a press release to be issued regarding the Ambassadors service provided by FODSA.**

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

7 BUSINESS UPDATE FROM THE AIRPORT'S MANAGING DIRECTOR

S Gill provided the Committee with an update regarding the Airport's onsite Business Park and plans for the future. In summary it was reported that:

- A business had indicated that they would like to locate on the airport's business park. A facility would need to be built to house the business as soon as planning permission had been granted.
- Peel had recently purchased a plot of land (400 acres) next to the A638 and Hurst Lane. A map setting out the airport's business park would be circulated to Members. **ACTION: S Gill**
- The airport's business park now totalled 1600 acres. It was highlighted that the airport would be sharing this publically via its Master Plan and a Vision document. Members asked if a copy of the Vision document could be circulated for their information. **ACTION: S Gill**

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that Manston Airport in Kent had now closed. Freight operators who had previously operated from Manston had now moved to Stansted. S Gill commented that in terms of attracting freight operators to Robin Hood, this was work in progress.

S Gill reminded Members that the airport's unique selling point was the quality of service it provided to its passengers. It was acknowledged that some flights were more expensive from Robin Hood, whereas, on the other hand, some were less expensive than other airports. It was reiterated that it was the airlines which set prices, not the airport.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

## 8 PUBLICATION OF DFT GUIDELINES FOR AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

The Chair reminded Members that the Committee had responded via the UK Airport Consultative Committees Liaison Group to the Department for Transport's request for comments on the draft updated guidelines for airport consultative committees back in March 2014.

On 17 April 2014, the Department for Transport had published a final version of the updated Guidelines for Airport Consultative Committees.

Members were presented with the new Guidelines for their comments and information. In particular, A Tolhurst asked for Members opinion and agreements on the following areas within the new Guidelines:-

- Principles for Airport Consultative Committees – ***Do Members agree these?***  
**RESOLVED – All agree.**
- Users of the aerodrome – The Guidelines suggest that as far as possible, a full range of users of the airport should be represented on committees, or at least their views taken into account. This may include, but it is not limited to, passengers, airlines (or their representative associations) retailers, training schools, freight companies, ground services, as well as those involved in any general aviation operating from the airport. ***Do Members consider the***

***membership of the Committee sufficiently represents all users of the aerodrome?***

Councillor Woodcock suggested that a business person frequently using the airport may be a useful addition to the Committee.

S Gill suggested that 3<sup>rd</sup> parties and retailers have their part to play on the Committee as they use the facilities at the airport on a daily basis.

**RESOLVED – That the Chair considers the comments made in relation to expanding the Committee’s membership.**

- Agenda and Papers – **Do Members think that the Committee agenda covers the business which needs to be discussed?**

Members commented that it was useful to receive the airport activities update report, along with any ad hoc issues which may arise. It was also raised that briefings on specialist areas were welcomed by members.

T Storey suggested that it would be useful for the Committee to receive a briefing at a future meeting regarding the customer experience from using the airport from start to finish.

It was also suggested that a briefing regarding how the airport looks after passengers with reduced mobility would be welcomed. **ACTION: L Daffen**

**RESOLVED – That the items for discussion at meetings are appropriate.**

- Knowledgeable Members – It was suggested that an induction pack be produced for new members.

**RESOLVED – That the Chair agrees the suggestion and makes arrangements to develop an induction pack for new members of the Committee.**

RESOLVED –

- i) That the Committee agrees and welcomes the new Guidelines.
- ii) That the Committee’s constitution and membership be reviewed to ensure that these are consistent with the principles and practice laid out in the new Guidelines and presented at the Committee’s Annual General Meeting in January 2015.

9 **KEY POINTS AND OUTCOMES FROM THE UKACCS ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 11 & 12 JUNE 2014**

The Committee considered the key points and outcomes of the UKACCS Annual meeting held on 11 and 12 June 2014.

RESOLVED – That the key points and outcomes of the UKACCS Annual meeting held on 11 and 12 June 2014 be noted.

10 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 JUNE 2014

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 19 June 2014 be noted.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Litter on Old Bawtry Road, Finningley

Parish Councillor J Worthington reported that on behalf of Parish Councillor M Lindley, she wished to inform the airport that litter on Old Bawtry Road in Finningley was attracting birds.

S Gill stated that the airport did carry out bird control to both the internal and external vicinity of the airport, adding that he would remind officers of this particular issue. **ACTION: S GILL**

ii) Environment and Communities Officer

L Daffern reported that Kellie Naylor had now commenced in post as the airport's Environment and Communities Officer. Kellie would be attending the October ACC meeting to meet Members.

iii) Strategic Aviation Special Interest Group (SASIG)

A Bosmans informed the Committee that SASIG were currently inviting new member authorities to add to the work of organisation. If any Members required any further information regarding the work of SASIG they were asked to contact A Bosmans.

iv) Paperback Book 'Discover Doncaster :History and Geography for Kids' by author Phil Sheppard

T Storey informed the Committee that author and illustrator Phil Sheppard had recently published a paperback book 'Discover Doncaster: History and Geography for Kids', which he highly recommended.

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING - THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2014 AT 10:00 AM, IN HEYFORD HOUSE, ROBIN HOOD AIRPORT, DONCASTER

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on Thursday 16 October 2014 at 10:00 am, in Heyford House, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster.

CHAIR