



**ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT**

**AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**ORDINARY MEETING**

**16 JANUARY 2014**

PRESENT: Mr A Tolhurst OBE (Chair)  
Councillor B Barker (Bassetlaw District Council), Mr A Bosmans (FODSA),  
Mrs L Daffern (Robin Hood Airport), Mr S Dishman (Doncaster Chamber of  
Commerce and Enterprise), Mr C Harcombe (Robin Hood Airport), Mr P Harris  
(Doncaster Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise),  
Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), Councillor H McNamee  
(Doncaster MBC), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County  
Council), Mr A Shirt (South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat), Mr I Smith (Robin Hood  
Airport), Mr A Storey OBE (Ex-Officio) and Councillor Y D Woodcock  
(Doncaster MBC)

Apologies were received from: Mayor R Jones, Mr P Cole, Mr D Fell, Mr S Gill,  
Councillor B Hoyle, Mr P Nears, Councillor P Schofield,  
Town Councillor P Scholey, Councillor J Summers and  
Parish Councillor J Worthington

1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

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

Members were informed that Peter Nears was unfortunately, unable to attend today's  
meeting. Arrangements would be made for Peter to attend a future meeting.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2013**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2013 be agreed as  
a correct record, subject to the following amendments:-

- i) That A Bosmans (FODSA) be added to the list of apologies;
- ii) That Minute 7 'Improving Access to Leeds Bradford Airport and the Development  
of Airport City Manchester – Impact on RHADS' reads:

A Tolhurst summed up by saying that all organisations represented on the  
Committee needed to become more active in "marketing" RHADS; the task could  
**not** be left to the Airport alone to undertake.

3 MATTERS ARISING

i) Regional Tourism - Pilgrim Fathers' Heritage Trail

The Committee expressed its disappointment that no progress had been made following the update given at the October meeting.

**ACTION:- A Tolhurst to follow-up with S Gill / C Harcombe and establish if Mayor Jones would support the development of a trail.**

ii) Wind Farms at Rotherham and Selby

A Tolhurst reported that he understood that the wind farm proposed at Laughton Common, Rotherham had been stopped.

In respect of the application for a wind farm near Selby it was noted that the application had been refused, it was understood that an appeal would be submitted by the developer.

4 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Members noted the following changes of membership of the Airport Consultative Committee:-

- i) Rotherham MBC had appointed Councillor Alan Gosling (in place of Councillor Terry Sharman); and
- ii) West Lindsey District Council had appointed Councillor Jeff Summers (in place of the late Councillor Chris Underwood-Frost).

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

5 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

C Harcombe, Head of Aviation Development provided the Committee with an update regarding the commercial, marketing and operational issues at RHADS. In summary it was report that:-

- Following the changes in shareholding at the Airport back in December 2012, there had been significant investment back into the Airport from Peel throughout 2013. A new management structure was in the last phase of implementation.
- £12m had been invested in the FARRRS link road from Peel. The new road would reduce journey times for passengers and cargo operations from Sheffield by up to 15 minutes. It was highlighted that FARRRS would bring an additional 0.5 million passengers within 30 minutes of the Airport and an additional 1 million within a 60 minute drive, taking the total catchment to over 6.2 million. The Marketing Team had commenced marketing the road to airlines etc.
- At the World Routes Conference, the Airport Director and Head of Aviation Development had highlighted to airlines the benefits of the new access road.
- Marketing the Airport was high on the agenda; the marketing budget had been increased by 50% for the 2014/15 financial year.

- A new Airport website would be launched early February.
- A marketing campaign advertising the Airport had been aired on a local radio station. Impact surveys had been carried out by the radio station which had stated the campaign had been successful.
- The Peel Group Board had agreed to fund a research programme regarding why airlines choose to locate at specific airports. The results of which were now being used as evidence by the Aviation Development Team when meeting with new potential airlines.
- The Airport was anticipating passenger numbers for 2014 to be in the region of 720,000. In the next 5 years the Airport wished to see this figure double.
- 2013 had essentially been a year of re-establishing the Airport and establishing who and why the Airport should be serving.
- During December 2013, the Airport had been working in partnership with RDC Aviation, the regional Chambers of Commerce and the Sheffield City Region Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver a regional wide DSA business survey.

The survey had been designed to obtain feedback on business travel trends in order to gauge future route opportunities for travellers within the region. The results of the business survey would play a major role in the vision, strategy and business plan for the next five years.

- In terms of Cargo operations, a 60 tonne 747 charter airline was booked into the Airport next week.
- The Airport were currently recruiting for a Cargo Development Manager; it was anticipated that an individual would be in place shortly.
- It was highlighted that Cessna and BAE Systems were located on site at the Airport and were helping to generate business.
- Discussions were currently taking place with an airline regarding business and leisure destinations. The airline was looking to commence its business schedule in April flying to Belfast and Aberdeen. Leisure flights would commence in summer to October.
- It was noted that Ryanair were losing aircrafts out of their fleet during summer 2014, and had committed to growth at Stansted and Dublin.
- Ryanair would not be operating the Genoa and Tenerife routes from the Airport this summer.
- Discussions were taking place with Wizz Air regarding growth for winter 2014 and summer 2015.
- Representatives from the Airport would be attending a meeting with KLM's Head of UK Commercials later this month in Schiphol, to discuss the potential of creating an Airport Advocacy Group.

- Representatives from the Airport would be meeting with Councillor Shaffaq Mohammed (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Sheffield City Council) to discuss a specific project regarding connections to South East Asia in the next six months.

The Chair commented that he was pleased with the developments taking place at the Airport, which reaffirmed Peel's support for the Airport.

RESOLVED – That C Harcombe be thanked for an informative update.

## 6 DFT UPDATE ON THE GUIDELINES FOR AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEES

The Chair informed the Committee that in the DfT were inviting comments on revised guidelines for Airport Consultative Committee's.

The proposed updated Guidelines contained a number of changes and additions from the 2003 version, which were intended to support and enhance the effectiveness of ACCs. The two main additions were a set of principles for ACCs and a code of conduct for committee members.

The Chair invited comments from the Committee on the following matters:

- **Principles for Airport Consultative Committees** - Do you agree the principles described in Chapter 2 provide a common basis for all consultative committees to work to? Are there any additions or alternatives that should be considered?

***There was consensus by the Committee that they supported the five principles (Independent, Representative, Knowledgeable, Transparent and Constructive) however, having the flexibility for implementing the principles locally was also very important.***

- **Member Code of Conduct** – Do you agree that a Code of Conduct would be a useful way to ensure members participate constructively in the work and discussions of the committee? Does the draft Code adequately reflect what should be expected of committee members?

***The inclusion of a Code of Conduct was welcomed, but to balance this there was concern that making the process overly bureaucratic should be strenuously avoided.***

- **Sharing Best Practice and Knowledge** – Can you suggest some ways in which best practice can be best shared between committees? Do you agree that committees are well placed to work with other organisations on areas of common interest?

***The Committee felt that sharing best practice with other committees could be done so via the UKACC. It was suggested that the use of a benchmark between other regional airports could be shared as best practice.***

***The Committee agreed that it was well placed to work with other organisations on areas of common interest.***

Councillor Bosmans commented that in order to increase the Committee's transparency to members of the public and other Committees it was important that the ACC's website contained up-to-date information. **ACTION: A Tolhurst to discuss with S Gill / L Daffern / A Shirt**

**Post meeting note:-** The Airport Consultative Committee's website (www.rhacc.org.uk) had been removed from the internet due to it been considerably out of date. A temporary web page had been added to the South Yorkshire Joint Secretariat's website.

- **Rest of the Document** – Do you feel the layout of the document is user friendly and easy to understand? Are there any areas of the text you think need clarifying?

***The Committee had no comments to make on the layout of the document.***

- **Section 35 of the Civil Aviation Act 1982** – Do you agree that Section 35 remains a useful way of ensuring different interests concerned in the operation of an airport are consulted in a fair and equal manner?

***Not applicable to Robin Hood Airport.***

RESOLVED – That the Chair discusses members' views with the Airport Director prior to a response being submitted via UKACC.

7 **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2013**

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 6 December 2013 be noted.

8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

i) **Hedge on Station Road, Blaxton**

Parish Councillor McCarron reported that the hedge on Station Road in Blaxton now required trimming. **ACTION:- L Daffern**

ii) **Vulcan Update**

The Committee asked if there had been any further developments with housing the Vulcan permanently at the Airport.

L Daffern reported that discussions were currently on-going and agreed to keep the Committee informed of progress.

iii) Backing the Airport

Parish Councillor McCarron reported that at a recent Parish Council meeting it was raised that a local land owner had offered his land free of charge to Doncaster Council for the development of a railway station near to the quarry at Blaxton/Finningley with links to the airport. Regrettably, the offer appeared to have been declined.

It was agreed that this be followed up with the Airport Director and Doncaster MBC. **ACTION: A Tolhurst**

9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

CHAIR