

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

*Précis of minutes for publication on Airport website & Airport Notice Board*

**Present** - 10 Members + 1 Representative of Gloucestershire Airport (GAL)

**Apologies** - received from 6 Members + 2 Representatives of Gloucestershire Airport (GAL)

**Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012 -**

The minutes were approved by those present and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising -**

**1. Airport Tenants and Users Group (ATUG)**

The Chairman suggested keeping this item under Matters Arising pending further information from the new representative, who was unable to attend this meeting.

**2. Charity Events -**

The Open Day held on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012 was very successful with approximately 3-4 thousand people attending throughout the day.

The Managing Director (GAL) wished to pass on thanks to the representative of ATUG for organizing and hosting the Charity BBQ Fly-in open day which was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2012

**Consultative Committee Matters:**

The representative for Gloucester City Council has offered his resignation; The Chairman suggested waiting for 3 months to see if any other representative has been appointed by Gloucester City Council before contacting them.

The representative for Fixed Wing Flying schools has also resigned from the committee as he has moved away from the area.

With several new Flying schools/businesses on site the Chairman would write and inform them of the existence and purpose of the Consultative Committee and request a new representative was appointed to the Committee from one of the Flying schools.

The Chairman informed the Committee that for some considerable time Down Hatherley PC (normally represented by their Chairman) has been represented by a fellow PC member who has now taken over the Chair of Down Hatherley PC and will be their official representative in future.

On behalf of the Consultative Committee, the Chairman would like to pass on the Committee's thanks to the retiring gentleman for his time spent on the Consultative Committee and to wish him well.

**Airport Management Matters**

**i. Airport Development Plan:**

The Managing Director reported that the Runway Safety Project is progressing well with some night works taking place over the next few days. Minor works will continue on the Instrument Landing Systems and Airfield Lighting (ILS/AGL) for the next 6 months.

The final design for the car park has been completed and negotiations continue with the contractors, it is anticipated work will commence soon.

After further advice from a planning advisor, GAL will be appealing Tewkesbury Borough Council Planning Dept. decision to refuse retention of the original entrance road for emergency purposes in its current form and the use of 'grasscrete' as an alternative to the tarmac.

Since the new access road has been officially opened, there has been one emergency during which it became clear that it was difficult for the emergency services to respond adequately using the route in front of the Aviator due to public parking and pedestrians.

A spate of power problems have been experienced by Tenants which should be resolved with the upgrade of the power supply. Two substations will be used to balance and stabilise the load.

## **ii. Environment Report**

### Green Policy:

Working with officers from Gloucester and Cheltenham, the Green policy is now due for reviewing and updating; targets have been met and exceeded. The policy will be published on the Airport's website in due course.

### Bus Route:

The campaign to have a new bus route through Bamfurlong lane continues, Stagecoach are looking to local businesses for support and a trial service is being considered.

### Broadband:

Virgin Media and LDE Ltd, has installed a fibre optic link on site for Broadband. Businesses on site may be contacted for the opportunity to be connected to this link. It is anticipated to be a very fast connection service.

## **Noise Complaints**

It was reported that there had been 135 noise complaints during May, June and July made up as follows:

Staverton 2; Churchdown 2; Cheltenham 6; Badgeworth 3; Bamfurlong Industrial Park 2; Boddington 1; Innsworth 1; Down Hatherley 1; Longlevens 1; Benhall 1:

Plus the following from Regular Complainants –

Bamfurlong Lane 80; Cheltenham 29; Churchdown1; Down Hatherley 1:

Plus 4 outside of the ATZ – Birdlip1; Chacely 1; Evesham1; Tirley 1:       2

A long discussion followed regarding one member of public from Down Hatherley who had compiled a log of aircraft over Down Hatherley Church and forwarded this to Airport Management. He has submitted a record of flights recorded in the vicinity of the church since November, totaling approximately 3000. The report also contains a précis of previous correspondence and interaction with the Down Hatherley community and the writer wishes to gain the views of the airport and operators with the intention of reducing the perceived disturbance.

The Airport records show that on the days recorded, there have been a total of 17,968 flights at the airport, of which 3000 equates to around 16% of our traffic. These statistics offer a view that our noise abatement procedures are, in effect, working positively and that given the close proximity to the busiest GA airfield in the UK is reasonably expected. The difficulty is that there is no permanent solution to the problem and there is little more we can realistically do to mitigate the situation completely. The volume of traffic we handle combined with the wide range of experience levels means it is simply not possible to mitigate the problem completely. It was therefore asked if the Consultative Committee could support and help the airport in managing their expectations.

An Airport Advice Notice has been reissued regarding Noise Abatement procedures which include instructions to avoid Down Hatherley village wherever possible. We have already met with the residents of Down Hatherley on a few occasions and they have requested that this continues. However, we strongly feel that the Consultative Committee is the correct forum for which to communicate going forward.

The Down Hatherley rep. explained where the complainant lived and his concerns regarding the amount of flights which fly over the Church. He further mentioned that he had been given a tour of the Airport which was very informative and wondered if a similar visit could be offered to the Complainant which may help to alleviate his concerns.

The Chairman has previously offered to take a Down Hatherley resident for a flight over the area to experience from a pilot's perspective what it is like over the area and was willing to keep the offer open. Another member enquired what other Airports do in similar situations and if the CAA had been approached for advice. The Chairman replied other airports operate similar to Gloucestershire Airport Limited (GAL) – take on board their concerns and appreciate their problem, however, developers continue to build housing estates close to Airports and the CAA are not really interested in noise complaints. The Business Aviation rep. commented that above all, safety is paramount.

The Chairman further noted that following a meeting in 2010, an offer had been made to Down Hatherley residents that if any services were being held in the church, for example, funerals weddings etc and the Airport were notified, GAL would do their utmost to direct traffic away from the Church. This offer was reiterated again at a later meeting but has never been taken up by those concerned in Down Hatherley

It was agreed that the Head of Operations would respond to the letter received from the Down Hatherley complainant which would include an offer from The Chairman - being independent from GAL of a flight over the area.

### **Report of recent Planning Applications**

Jet Age Museum (JAM) - The Committee was updated on the JAM project, which has unfortunately been subject to a succession of hold-ups, however by the end of the month it is anticipated to begin the ground works and be in a position to lay the concrete slab before the autumn rain/frosts arrive.

The Open day held at the Flying Shack was very successful and raised in the region of £1k

The 'buy a brick' campaign has been well supported and has so far raised £10k; these bricks will now be laid on an internal wall instead of externally. There is now no closing dates for purchasing the bricks.

JAM has been offered an ex-RAF temporary hangar which could be used for a restoration workshop for 2/3 years and a suitable location was being investigated, but as there may be health and safety issues with this it has been put on hold for the time being.

It was reported that no new planning applications had been received.

Plus Hangars SE3 and SE13 had now been refurbished and were looking very good

Wind Turbines - Strensham , Alney Island & Forest of Dean – All no further updates available.

### **Airport Security Situation**

The following Airport Crime and Incident Statistics were provided by Gloucestershire Police for the period from 31st March 2012

Gloucestershire Airport - 0:

Anson Business Park - 1 reported crime (Bike stolen)

Bamfurlong Industrial Park / Staverton Industrial Estate - 1 reported crime (Attempted burglary)

Meteor Business Park - 1 reported crime (Machinery & plant items stolen)

### **Any Other Business**

A member enquired how charges for the ILS will be incurred at GAL and how they will be distinguished from flying a GPS or ILS. Charges were not currently allocated to NDB so why charge home-based people for the ILS. The Managing Director replied he was not sure of the technical aspect but would speak to Head of Operations regarding this issue and would request that he contacts the member to discuss.

The meeting closed at 18.50

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 6 pm.**

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