

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

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

**Present** - 13 Members + 1 Representative of Gloucestershire Airport

**Apologies** - received from 5 Members + 2 Representatives of Gloucestershire Airport

**Minutes of the Meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011** -

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

**Matters Arising** -

1. **Car Parking** - An update would be included under Airport Management Matters.

2. **Airport Tenants and Users Group**

The letter from the Consultative Committee Chairman to the members of this group is still pending. The Tenants & Users Association representative said there were a few issues still to be considered but acknowledged that this was not the right forum to discuss them. It was agreed these would be discussed outside of this committee and reported back as appropriate at the next Consultative Committee meeting.

3. **Mogas**

It was reported that, unfortunately, there was no further progress at the moment but the Airport would continue to search for a suitable supplier.

A member enquired what the difference was between Mogas and petrol – the reply being that Mogas approved for aviation use is water and alcohol free. The Rotax engines used by Microlights is not subject to the same constraints.

4. **Bequest**

It was confirmed that the £100 bequeathed by the late Ray Darby to purchase and plant a Laburnum Tree at the Airport has now been completed, the tree has been planted on the Airport site near Cheltenham Patterns, a plaque will be put alongside the tree.

5. **Charity Events**

The Chairman requested an update on the Charity events recently held at the Airport.

The Airport MD replied that over £1500 had been raised for charities during the Airport Open Day which was a great success considering the event is still in its infancy, it is anticipated that next year it will be even more successful and several attendees who had stands have expressed an interest in returning next year. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/1940's hangar party was a great success, well supported and raised just under £2000 for our charities.

A member commented that the 'Bluebird' electric car which was being tested on the runway was reported on Television, this was an excellent piece of very positive advertising with the 'Gloucestershire Airport' sign directly in view of the cameras.

**Consultative Committee Matters** -

There were no Consultative Committee Matters to report.

**Airport Management Matters** -

**i. Airport Development Plan:**

The Airport MD gave an update on the Runway Safety Project which is currently progressing well and although still on target is behind by 2/3 weeks on some of the projects.

A Member asked when the new Entrance road would be opened as mentioned at the last Consultative Committee Meeting. It was reported that there will be a delay to the actual opening of the road until other planning issues have been resolved including the section 106 agreement. Alterations to keep the contractors compound as an overflow car park and to keep the existing entrance road as an emergency access route will be pursued with Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC)

A Member enquired if a one road in, one road out system would be instigated. The reply being generally No - but in the event of a major incident a dynamic approach would be taken using both access routes.

Another Member asked how the new access road would affect security - the reply being that security would be improved.

In response to a query as to the purpose of the posts being erected on Bamfurlong Lane – it was explained these were height sensors and traffic lights for controlling the traffic once the ILS has been installed and will additionally be linked to the Control Tower where the system can be operated and overridden.

## **ii. Environment Report**

New equipment has been purchased for the airports sewerage works. When this is fitted it will enable us to improve our already impressive figures from the Normans brook outflow. Tests are carried out by the Environmental Agency and are part of the Airports Green Policy

A campaign to have a new bus route through Bamfurlong lane continues with the Airport and Dundry Nurseries support. The final results of our tenants and staff survey are due to be collated by our Site Manager who will be meeting the owner of Dundry Nurseries. It is hoped to collate enough evidence to persuade Marchants or Stagecoach that the route will be viable.

The new cycle racks will be attached to the substation located in front of the Terminal Building, delays have occurred with the supplier of the racks.

## **Noise Complaints -**

MR reported that there had been 89 noise complaints during May, June and July made up as follows: Bamfurlong Lane 59; Staverton 4; Badgeworth 7; Churchdown 13; Longlevens 2; Boddington 3; Uckington 1;

Noise complaints continue to fall against the same period last year. However, since raising our profile about the project, complaints have started to increase. In particular, one of our most vociferous complainants has started to email again following a quiet period.

The following points were raised -

All complaints are audited and where necessary the operators of specific aircraft are contacted. ATC can request a change of direction. Noise abatement procedures are issued regularly and by administering some changes, this has been successful with alleviating some of the noise in Down Hatherley.

It was reiterated that third party complaints are not recognised.

The Down Hatherley representative said helicopters were the main cause of complaints he received from Down Hatherley residents. The Airport MD emphasised that if complaints are not made directly to the Airport then it was impossible to know the extent of their concerns.

A pilot member explained that with the Church on the right hand side fixed wing pilots could use Imjin Barracks on the left hand side as a point to turn and should perhaps be published for all pilots to observe. The Airport MD agreed and would arrange to formalise the procedure. It was noted the helicopters fly a different circuit pattern inside the fixed wing aircraft to maintain safe separation and, therefore, have different turning points.

The Down Hatherley representative stated that residents have copies of the noise abatement maps and are concerned that pilots do not always adhere to the published plans although he had not appreciated the fact that helicopters fly a different circuit.

A member responded that as a pilot, he would like to say on behalf of the organisation that a huge amount of effort has been expended on educating pilots and avoiding certain areas where possible. Prior to every flight, pilots are reminded of noise abatement procedures and areas where they should not fly etc and he took exception to hear the comment that 'nothing has changed' as a huge effort has gone into trying to make people happy. He continued that the noise abatement procedures are only guidelines and they are actually not breaking any laws.

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

An application to retain the Building contractors compound for car parking and an application to re-clad SE3 are currently with Tewkesbury Borough Council

#### **Jet Age Museum -**

The lease for the building is due to be signed within the next few weeks and then tenders can be formally issued. The project will be split into 3 phases and currently there are funds available to support phase 1 and 2. It is anticipated that work may commence during December, 3 months notice is required to be given to Sandlings.

It was mentioned that the Vulcan cockpit currently on display at the front of the 'Flying Shack' belongs to the Jet Age Museum.

#### **Wind Turbines -**

Strensham – No further updates available

Alney Island – The Wind Turbine proposed for Alney Island is currently on hold until next year due to cost implications.

Forest of Dean – No further updates available

### **Airport Security Situation -**

No major incidents have been reported but a couple of minor incidents have been reported at the Meteor Business Park.

### **Any Other Business -**

No further business was raised

The meeting closed at 19.10

**Date of next meeting: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at 6 pm**