

GATCOM

Minutes of the meeting of the Gatwick Airport Consultative Committee held on 18 October 2012.

Present: Dr. John Godfrey DL (Chairman)

John Byng	-	Environmental and Amenities Groups
Helyn Clack (substitute)-		Surrey County Council
David Elkin	-	East Sussex County Council
Mike George	-	Horley Town Council
Steve Gumbrell	-	Trades Union Congress Southern & Eastern Regional Council
Ken Harwood	-	Tandridge District Council
Chris Hersey	-	Mid Sussex District Council
Graham Hill	-	Rusper Parish Council
Dick Hobbs (substitute)-		Passenger Representative
Alan Jones	-	Burstow Parish Council
Liz Kitchen	-	Horsham District Council
Peter Lake	-	Kent County Council
Neil Maltby	-	Mole Valley District Council
Pieter Montyn	-	West Sussex County Council
Susan Parsons	-	ABTA
John Peel	-	Coast to Capital LEP
Bryan Reynolds	-	Which?
Ken Trussell	-	Crawley Borough Council
Charles Yarwood	-	Charlwood Parish Council

Also present:

Sir David Rowlands	-	Chairman, Gatwick Airport Limited
Stewart Wingate	-	Chief Executive Officer, Gatwick Airport Limited
James Colman	-	Corporate Affairs and Sustainability Director
Sean McKee	-	Head of Public Affairs, Gatwick Airport Limited
Tom Denton	-	Head of Corporate Responsibility, Gatwick Airport Limited
Tim May	-	Department for Transport
Barry Smith	-	Deputy Honorary Secretary
Ros Howell	-	Independent Technical Adviser
Paula Street	-	Assistant Secretary

Apologies for absence were received from: Peter Collin (Tourism South East), Peter Hall (Passenger Representative) Peter Pledger (South London Business), Eddie Redfern (IACA), Dorothy Ross-Tomlin (Surrey County Council), Jeremy Taylor (Gatwick Diamond Business).

DR JOHN GODFREY DL

60. Mr. Smith was pleased to inform members that Dr Godfrey had recently been appointed as a Deputy Lieutenant for West Sussex. GATCOM congratulated Dr Godfrey on his appointment.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES

61. The Chairman reported the departure of Geoff Williams, Head of Security from Gatwick. The Chairman would write to him to express GATCOM's gratitude for the commitment and dedication he had demonstrated in driving through improvements to the security facilities, the development and motivation of security staff and the relationship between GAL and UKBA at Gatwick Airport.

62. Members also noted that Sean McKee, Head of Public Affairs at Gatwick was also to leave the business to take up a new post with the London Chamber of Commerce. Mr. McKee was thanked for his commitment and all the time he devoted to championing the work of GATCOM.

63. The Chairman also reported that he had sat on the panel at Gatwick Airport Limited's (GAL) Thameslink event on 20 July. On behalf of GATCOM, the Chairman expressed his thanks to Peter Hall and Dick Hobbs, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Passenger Advisory Group (PAG), and other members for attending meetings with prospective bidders for the Thameslink franchise to set out GATCOM's aspirations for the new 'super' franchise.

64. Peter Hall, Chairman of PAG had also attended on behalf of GATCOM, Network Rail's first Long Term Planning event to set out GATCOM's concerns and aspirations at an initial stage in the process. Network Rail was planning another event in December.

65. Neil Maltby, Vice-Chairman, had attended a meeting of the UKACCs Working Group to discuss the Government's draft Aviation Policy Framework. UKACCs' particular focus was on regional access to London airports and the role of airport consultative committees.

MINUTES

66. Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2012 be approved as a correct record and that they be signed by the Chairman.

GATCOM STEERING GROUP – MATTERS CONSIDERED

67. GATCOM received the report of the Chairman summarising the matters considered at the meeting of the GATCOM Steering Group on 27 September 2012 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Gatwick's Fly Quiet and Clean Programme and Noise Seminar

68. Members noted that GAL would host a Noise Seminar on 7 December 2012 at which GAL's Fly Quiet and Clean Programme would be launched. All GATCOM members would be invited to attend the event.

Gatwick Airport 2011 Annual Monitoring Report Verification Report and 2012 Action Plan Progress

69. Members were pleased to note that the results of the independent verification of the Annual Monitoring Report of the Section 106 agreement obligations and commitments did not raise any causes for concern and noted that the verifier's recommendations were being addressed by the parties concerned.

70. Reference was made to the Section 106 agreement obligation relating to the car park levy. Gatwick Airport Limited (GAL) was asked to give consideration to utilising some of the levy funds for subsidising a bus service in the Horne area. Mr. Smith highlighted that the levy funds were currently depleted due to the contribution that had been given to the Gatwick railway station improvement scheme.

NATMAG Membership

71. Reference was made to the desire for greater public accessibility to information on the membership and work of NATMAG. GATCOM requested that GAL give consideration to including on the Gatwick noise website details of NATMAG's membership. GATCOM also asked that NATMAG consider the publication of its agendas and minutes on the website to help improve transparency of noise governance at Gatwick.

AIRPORT COMMENTARY

72. GATCOM received the Chief Executive's commentary on activity at the airport since the date of the last meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Traffic Performance

73. Mr. Wingate reported that over the last quarter traffic growth had increased 1% compared with the same quarter the previous year. The Olympic and Paralympic Games had been a factor in limiting growth during July/August but passenger numbers for September were up 2% compared with September 2011. GATCOM congratulated GAL on the success of the plans that had been put in place to handle the Olympic and Paralympic Games families and VIPs.

Runway resurfacing

74. GATCOM noted that the runway resurfacing work was back on track and installation of a Category 3 LED lighting system was completed on 1 October. Gatwick was the first UK airport to install an LED runway lighting system.

Tour of airport

75. GATCOM thanked GAL for hosting the tour of areas of the airport that morning which had highlighted to members the significant investment and resulting improvements that had been made in the South Terminal.

Consideration of options for second runway at Gatwick

76. GATCOM welcomed Sir David Rowlands, Chairman of GAL, to the meeting. Sir David explained that GAL was commencing detailed work on possible options for a new runway at Gatwick as there was a need for the company to respond to the call for evidence to the Government's newly established Independent Commission on Aviation Connectivity, chaired by Sir Howard Davies. He wished to inform GATCOM and the local communities at an early stage of GAL's intention to undertake this work.

77. He emphasised that:

- GAL's submission to the Commission would stress that Gatwick would honour the 1979 legal agreement with West Sussex County Council which prohibits Gatwick from constructing a second runway before 2019.
- Since the change of ownership in 2009, Gatwick had continued to safeguard the land that would be required for a new runway.
- The Gatwick Master plan outlined the detailed vision for the airport up to 2020 and also discussed the longer-term options for the airport including a scenario for a new runway.
- The work programme would now look in detail at the implications of a new runway and would cover all issues which GAL anticipates will be relevant to the Commission and the eventual policy decision by the Government on airport expansion. This work would evaluate various runway options and assess key requirements, including environmental (e.g. aircraft and airport ground noise, air quality), surface access, economic impacts and impacts on local communities.
- GAL would work with local authorities and other key stakeholders as the work on options developed.

78. GATCOM thanked Sir David for his open and honest address and response to questions. Members emphasised the need to handle the issue, and the consideration of options, sensitively and appropriately so as to help alleviate concerns, anxiety and property blight for communities around the airport. In this respect it was suggested that GAL focus its discussions with key stakeholders on those runway options that were considered to be viable and that possible ways in which to mitigate blight and possible mitigation measures be discussed with the local authorities.

79. Further reports would be made to GATCOM as the work programme develops.

CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING REPORT

80. GATCOM noted the report by Crawley Borough Council's Director for Environment and Housing on planning applications determined and outstanding in respect of Gatwick since the date of the last meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes).

DRAFT AVIATION POLICY FRAMEWORK

81. GATCOM considered a report by the Secretariat providing an update on the new ministerial team, recent developments on the preparation of the Government's aviation policy framework and the suggested GATCOM response to the DfT's consultation on the draft policy framework (copy attached to the signed minutes).

82. Tim May, DfT, gave an overview of recent happenings and the establishment of the Airports Commission to be chaired by Sir Howard Davies. It was noted that more details about the Independent Commission's role, terms of reference and membership would be announced in the near future. It was confirmed that in the statement given by the new Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin MP a third runway at Heathrow had not been ruled out. The Coalition Agreement had not however changed. Mr. May also confirmed that it was still the Government's aim to publish the new Policy Framework in Spring 2013. Members also noted that the DfT's stakeholder events had been well attended and a number of constructive comments had been raised which would be taken into account. A summary of the events and the issues raised would be published on the DfT's website.

83. GAL outlined its view and the key aspects of its response to the draft aviation policy framework. It was noted that GAL welcomed the proposal to extend fifth freedoms policy to Gatwick. GAL also emphasised that the excellent work of GATCOM and collaborative working practices with partners and voluntary agreements would be put forward as models for best practice.

84. GATCOM considered its draft response as set out in the Appendix to the Secretariat's report. It was noted that the comments of the GATCOM Steering Group and other subsequent comments received from members had been taken into account in the draft response. The representative for the environmental and amenities groups made particular reference to paragraph (iii) of the general opening comments in relation to the suggestion that a core objective of the Government should be to make a positive choice for a global hub in the UK as this would help the UK to compete with other European airports and support economic growth in the UK. He did not support the inclusion of this statement and asked for it to be removed. However, as GATCOM had previously included this comment in its response to the Aviation Scoping Paper, the suggested deletion was not agreed.

85. Reference was also made to the response to Q14(i) and it was felt that the wording needed refining to provide greater clarification. It was agreed that the wording to that question response would be revised in consultation with the environmental and amenities groups' representative.

86. Resolved – That, subject to some minor editing and a revision to the response to Q14(i) to be agreed in liaison with the environmental and amenities groups representative, the draft response set out in the Appendix to the Secretariat's report be approved and submitted to the DfT.

House of Commons Transport Committee Call for Evidence

87. GATCOM considered the Secretariat's report suggesting a response to the House of Commons Transport Committee's request for views to input to its Inquiry into Airport Capacity in the UK (copy attached to the signed minutes). Members noted the terms of reference for the Inquiry and the questions that has been posed.

88. Resolved – That the draft response set out in the Appendix to the Secretariat's report be approved and submitted to the House of Commons Transport Committee.

P-RNAV DEPARTURE SID IMPLEMENTATION AT GATWICK

89. GATCOM considered a paper by the Secretariat suggesting a response to GAL's consultation on the implementation of P-RNAV departure SID routes at Gatwick (copy attached to the signed minutes). The majority of GATCOM agreed to raise no objection to the principle of implementing P-RNAV on all the departure SIDs at Gatwick in advance of the national implementation post 2018. Members also thanked GAL and NATS for the positive approach to the consultation exercise and GAL's attendance at a number of local meetings was most appreciated as it had helped to raise awareness of the new flight procedure and what it meant in terms of impacts for the local communities under the departure routes.

90. Members noted NATMAG's response to the Committee's request for monitoring and data gathering of the P-RNAV trial and the interim implementation, if approved by the CAA. It was also noted that there was only a small percentage of aircraft/airlines currently flying P-RNAV and that if the monitoring of the interim implementation was to be meaningful there was a need to encourage more aircraft to adopt the flight procedure. GAL was therefore requested to highlight to airlines the importance of more aircraft adopting P-RNAV flight procedures.

91. The issue of the disturbance suffered by those communities directly under a P-RNAV route was considered and the monitoring and management programme was noted. It was emphasised that understanding levels of annoyance needed to be examined but it was acknowledged that this was a matter for the Government to consider. Members noted that GATCOM's response to the Government's consultation on the draft Aviation Policy Framework had raised the issue and the need for more research.

92. Resolved – That:

- (1) the suggested response set out in Appendix 2 of the Secretariat's report be approved;

- (2) GAL be requested to highlight to airlines the importance of more aircraft adopting P-RNAV flight procedures to enable meaningful monitoring of the P-RNAV departure routes to be undertaken to help inform decisions for the future; and
- (3) the monitoring proposed by NATMAG as set out in Appendix 1 of the Secretariat's report be noted.

FLIGHT PERFORMANCE TEAM (FPT) REPORT

93. GATCOM considered the quarterly report of the FPT (copy attached to the signed minutes). Members noted that the runway resurfacing works had impacted negatively on Continuous Descent Approach (CDA) performance. There had also been 2 infringements of the 1000ft height limit which had been addressed with the airlines concerned.

94. Members also noted that the number of noise enquiries had reduced considerably compared with the same period the previous year.

95. GATCOM welcomed the further development of the noise section on the Gatwick Airport website. Members were encouraged to look at the site and provide feedback to GAL (see: Website www.gatwickairport.com/noise). A member highlighted that the website now made public access to noise impact data, including CDA performance more accessible.

96. Reference was made to the locations of mobile noise monitors and the new positions at Rudgwick and Blindley Heath. The representative from Tandridge District Council asked whether any progress had been made on considering the siting of a mobile noise monitor at Domewood. GAL advised that it had received a number of recent requests for the siting of mobile noise monitors and these would be considered by GAL, the Gatwick Noise Monitoring Group and NATMAG. As regards Domewood, it was noted that NATMAG had agreed to a siting of a noise monitor in that area to assist with the monitoring of the impact of the implementation of the P-RNAV flight procedure.

97. It was also noted that GAL had now received agreement to re-site the inactive mobile noise monitor in Hever at Hever Castle.

NOISE AND TRACK MONITORING ADVISORY GROUP (NATMAG)

98. The summary of the items discussed at the meeting of NATMAG held on 13 September were noted (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr. Jones, GATCOM's lead member for noise advised that the importance of airline representation at NATMAG meetings and other GATCOM meetings had been raised with GAL. GAL was pleased to announce that easyJet had confirmed its participation in the work of NATMAG. This was welcomed by GATCOM.

99. NATMAG had noted the concerns of GATCOM members about the need for more airlines to adopt P-RNAV flight procedures to enable more meaningful monitoring to be undertaken [this issue had been raised in GATCOM's response to the P-RNAV consultation].

HEVER, EDENBRIDGE AND MARSH GREEN (HEMG) NOISE ISSUES WORKING GROUP

100. GATCOM considered a report by GAL summarising the actions taken and status of the HEMG's 20 point wish list (copy attached to the signed minutes). GATCOM noted the progress made by GAL on taking forward the actions and that there were still some outstanding issues. It was agreed that the outstanding actions would continue to be progressed through NATMAG rather than through GATCOM.

101. Resolved – That the position be noted.

DFT NOISE EXPOSURE CONTOURS 2011

102. Members received a report from the Technical Adviser summarising the results of the DfT's noise monitoring for a period of summer 2011 (copy attached to the signed minutes). It was noted that there has been a 3% increase in aircraft movements and that the results of noise monitoring for the summer period of 2011 showed a small increase in the noise footprint attributable to Gatwick Airport when compared to 2010 (the figures for the latter year, within the actual 57 dBA leq contour, were the lowest ever recorded at Gatwick).

PASSENGER ADVISORY GROUP

103. GATCOM received a report from Mr. Hobbs, Vice-Chairman of the Passenger Advisory Group (PAG), in respect of activities of the PAG since the date of the last meeting (copy attached to the signed minutes). It was noted that PAG had highlighted to GAL the negative feedback received about all passengers having to pass through the newly opened World Duty Free shop in the South Terminal en-route to the International Departure Lounge and the congestion on passenger flows experienced at peak times. Mr. Hobbs also reported that PAG had asked GAL to ensure that the facilities installed for young families and passengers with reduced mobility last year continued to be monitored and maintained so that they remained of a high standard. GAL thanked PAG for keeping the company fully aware of the issues and challenges concerning the passenger experience at Gatwick and members were assured that GAL was addressing the issues and would report back to PAG.

104. Reference was made to the use of Gatwick's forecourts by unauthorised and unlicensed taxis. GAL advised that it was aware of the concerns of the taxi drivers and was working with the taxi management on addressing the issues of concern. The PAG was asked to consider the concerns of the union's representative about unauthorised taxi access at Gatwick.

105. The need to improve the passenger experience and environment for passengers and staff accessing the airport by bus was also highlighted. Mr. Hobbs advised that the PAG would continue to look at ways to improve this area with GAL.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2013/14

106. GATCOM noted the calendar of meetings for GATCOM and its Sub-Groups for 2013/14 as follows:

Passenger Advisory Group

Thursday 21 March 2013 at 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 4 July 2013 at 1.30 p.m.

Wednesday 2 October 2013 at 1.30 p.m.

Thursday 16 January 2014 at 1.30 p.m.

GATCOM Steering Group

Thursday 28 March 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Thursday 27 June 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Thursday 26 September 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Thursday 9 January 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

GATCOM

Thursday 18 April 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 18 July 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 17 October 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 30 January 2014 at 2.00 p.m.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

107. Members noted the next meetings of GATCOM as follows:

GATCOM Steering Group – Thursday 10 January 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Passenger Advisory Group – Thursday 17 January 2013 at 1.30 p.m.

GATCOM – Thursday 31 January 2013 at 2.00 p.m.

108. Members also noted that the next meeting of Gatwick Airport Limited's Noise and Track Monitoring Advisory Group (NATMAG) would take place on Thursday 29 November 2012 at 10.00 a.m.

Chairman