

ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

16 APRIL 2015

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
A Bosmans (FODSA), L Daffern (Robin Hood Airport), Mayor R Jones (Doncaster MBC), Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council), County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council), M Powell (Lincolnshire County Council), M Di Salvatore (West Lindsey District Council), A Shirt (Committee Secretary), T Storey OBE (Ex-Officio), M Thomas (West Lindsey District Council), S Withington (Bassetlaw District Council), Y D Woodcock (Doncaster MBC) and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: J Bamford, Councillor B Barker, Councillor L Bramall, D Fell, Councillor R Franklin, S Gill, Councillor B Hoyle, Councillor H McNamee, K Naylor and Councillor P J O'Connor

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed Members to the April meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee. An extended welcome went to: Mary Powell, Tourism Development Manager at Lincolnshire County Council; Marion Thomas, Tourism Development Officer at West Lindsey District Council and Sandra Withington, Economic Development and Marketing Officer at Bassetlaw District Council.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reflected upon the discussions at the January 2015 ACC meeting, highlighting that the increase in cargo movements and the development of the FARRRS route were all positives for the Airport; the outlook for 2015 looked extremely good.

Following the January meeting there had been a lot of activity taking place at the Airport which would be reported upon in the Airport Activities Update.

Nationally, the Airports Commission report on increasing the UK's long-term aviation capacity was expected shortly. Furthermore, Heathrow had established a £10 million route development fund as part of a series of commitments to help develop regional flight connections if it is allowed to expand.

It was also reported that the Government had simplified the banding systems used to calculate APD contributions when flying from a UK airport. The two bands that had previously applied to those flying more than 4,000 miles had gone. Instead, all air passengers flying to a country whose capital is more than 2,000 miles from London

would be taxed the same amount. The Government would also scrap APD for children aged under 12 from 1st May 2015. In 2016, it would be abolished for all children under 16 years of age.

The Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee had noted that there had been recent snippets in the Yorkshire Post regarding whether a new Yorkshire airport should be built. A Bosmans reported that he had submitted a response to the Yorkshire Post; however, this had not been published.

The Committee requested that Steve Gill writes to the Yorkshire Post setting out the virtues of Robin Hood Airport. **ACTION: L Daffern**

3 MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY ACC MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee held on 15 January 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

i) Transport Select Committee Hearing

It was noted that on behalf of the Regional and Business Airports Group (RABA), Peter Nears had attended the Transport Select Committee hearing on 19 January 2015 in respect of their inquiry into Smaller Regional Airports.

ii) Regional Air Connectivity Fund

The Airport had submitted a bid to the Government's Regional Air Connectivity Fund for a daily weekday Bmi regional route between Robin Hood Airport and Frankfurt (proposed to start 1st April 2016). A short-list of routes that had met the necessary criteria would be published in May, with successful bids being announced in July.

iii) Railway Station Scheme

A meeting had been held with Doncaster MBC to discuss how a railway station scheme could be progressed to ensure that funding/delivery opportunities could be captured.

L Daffern agreed to obtain an update from the recent meeting and circulate to Members for their information. **ACTION: L Daffern**

iv) Vulcan Aviation and Heritage Centre

It was reported that A Tolhurst and Parish Councillor McCarron had attended a recent briefing and discussion event on future plans to create a Vulcan Aviation Academy and Heritage Centre at Robin Hood Airport.

5 PRESENTATION ON THE COUNTDOWN TO LINCOLN CASTLE REVEALED PROJECT

The Committee received a presentation from Mary Powell, Tourism Development Manager at Lincolnshire County Council regarding the Countdown to Lincoln Castle revealed project.

In summary, the Committee was informed that on 1st April 2015 Lincoln Castle re-opened its doors following a £22m restoration project which had commenced back in 2011. Refurbishment of the 1,000 year old walls had taken place, along with building a vault to house a surviving copy of the 1215 Magna Carta, in time for its 800th anniversary in 2015, along with a whole host of new visitor and educational facilities.

S Withington informed the Committee that in terms of tourism, Bassetlaw had connections with the English Civil War, asking if Lincoln Castle would be able to promote these connections to visitors. M Powell stated that Lincoln Castle would consider promoting any local connections. It was agreed that a discussion takes place outside of today's meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Committee thanks M Powell for an interesting and informative presentation.

6 UPDATE ON PILGRIM FATHERS

The Committee received an update from Sandra Withington, Development and Marketing Officer at Bassetlaw District Council regarding the latest information on the Pilgrim Fathers project.

The Committee was informed that a workshop had been held on 19th March 2015 to enable stakeholders to build a consensus around developing a Pilgrim Fathers project in North Nottinghamshire. A number of actions were identified that were needed to deliver aspects of the project.

A consultant had been commissioned to carry out research into the feasibility of creating a Pilgrim Fathers project. A summary of the points arising from the consultant's research was circulated for Members' information.

In respect of demand, the consultants had indicated that there was a low tourism base and limited accommodation and facilities; therefore it was unlikely to attract high number of leisure visits.

In a final discussion regarding the way forward a number of proposals and suggestions were made as follows:

- The local authorities should take the lead in driving, championing and coordinating the project (Bassetlaw with lead in partnership with Nottinghamshire County, Doncaster and West Lindsey); and
- A local partnership should be formed of the stakeholders and individual partners should be formed beyond North Nottinghamshire to help deliver and market the project.

It was noted there would be a meeting of the Mayflower 400 Group in Bassetlaw scheduled for July. The Mayflower 400 Group had asked for information on projects and costs to inform a funding application to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

The Chair commented that he was disappointed to read the consultants conclusions. Furthermore, he queried if there was real enthusiasm from Bassetlaw to progress with this project.

S Withington indicated that there was commitment from Bassetlaw, however, sadly, without a customer market; tour operators would not create package tours.

Councillor Woodcock expressed her disappointment that Doncaster MBC had not been involved in the Workshop.

It was noted that an Officer from Doncaster MBC would be attending the Mayflower 400 Group meeting in July.

RESOLVED – That the current position be noted.

7 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the following changes of membership on the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee:

- Wroot Parish Council has appointed Parish Councillor David Sanders (in place of Parish Councillor Mel Wiles).

8 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

- Passenger traffic for the year to date was +8.5% ahead year on year, with passenger departures +8.3% ahead.
- Wizz Air is driving traffic growth with year to date traffic up by 44%.
- Wizz Air would be adding a new route to Lublin (Poland) commencing in September 2015, operating 3 times per week. There would be 50,000 extra seats per annum.
- The Riga service launched last summer will grow to a 3rd weekly frequency.
- Aer Lingus Regional had recently announced the return of their Dublin service, which would commence on 29th May from Robin Hood:
 - The Service will operate 5 times weekly with leading fares from £24.99.
 - Onward connections are available, on sale now, through to four Aer Lingus transatlantic destinations – New York, Boston, Chicago and Toronto.

- TUI UK had announced that they would be launching new routes in summer 2016 from Robin Hood to Larnaca (Cyprus), Paphos (Cyprus) and Heraklion (Crete).
- The Airport had invested in the Aviation Development Team with Declan Maguire joining the Team as Aviation Development Manager, focusing predominantly on Passenger Development.
- Cargo traffic had surpassed 1100 tonnes in the financial year to date, which represents over 100% growth year on year.
- Two Ethiopian Airlines B777's had operated through the Airport during March, carrying over 200 tonnes of tea.
- In Quarter 4 of 2014, the Airport handled eight 747's operating on behalf of the Department for International Development supporting the UK's Ebola Relief effort. It was reported that the feedback received by the Airport from the Department for International Development had been excellent. Discussions were ongoing with the Department regarding any future operations.
- On 28th April 2015, Robin Hood Airport will be 10 years old - a number of events were planned:
 - A live radio broadcast would take place from the Airport throughout the day with a wide range of staff being interviewed.
 - A celebratory event would take place on 29 April 2015, in the Vulcan Hangar where guests would be hear from the Airport Director regarding the achievements made to date and plans for the future.
- Back in March, an emergency exercise event had been staged at the Airport to test its emergency plans. It was reported that the exercise had gone extremely well. Thanks were given to FODSA Members' for their assistance.
- Following feedback received from passengers, the Airport would be installing a 400 square meter arrivals addition at the rear of the terminal building. It was expected that installation would commence shortly.
- A new area was also planned for passengers prior to them entering security in the terminal building.

It was suggested the July meeting takes place in the Vulcan Viewing Lounge within the Terminal Building to allow Members' to view the new arrivals addition and security area. **ACTION: L Daffern**

A Bosmans informed the Committee that FODSA were looking to expand the number of volunteer Airport Ambassadors this summer.

L Daffern thanked FODSA for providing this invaluable service to the Airport.

9 MINUTES OF THE ACC AGM HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes from the Airport Consultative Committee's Annual General Meeting held on 15 January 2015 be noted.

10 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 19 MARCH 2015

The Committee noted that there had been discussion at the March meeting regarding several complaints received from Wroot Parish Council in relation to training flights flying and circling over the village of Wroot.

L Daffern informed the Committee that the Airport's Environment and Community Officer was currently investigating all the flight tracks and would provide a response at the June meeting of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee.

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that he was of the opinion that there was no reason why aircrafts should not be flown over Wroot village, as long as they were not below the approved circuit height of 2000ft. **ACTION: L Daffern to obtain confirmation.**

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 19 March 2015 be noted.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair informed the Committee that this would be the last meeting which would be attended by several Members of the Committee as they were either, due to retire, or re-stand at the forthcoming municipal elections.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank all outgoing Members for all their contributions at meetings.

The Committee noted that this would be the last meeting which Councillor Woodcock would be attending, as she would be standing down from Doncaster MBC at the forthcoming elections.

The Committee paid tribute to the dedicated service Councillor Woodcock had given to the Airport over the last ten years and wished her well for the future.

Councillor Woodcock thanked the Chair, Members, Committee Secretary and officers at the Airport for all their support.

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED – That the next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on Thursday 16 July 2015 at 10:00 am in the Vulcan Viewing Lounge, 1st Floor in the Terminal Building, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster.

CHAIR