



ROBIN HOOD DONCASTER SHEFFIELD AIRPORT

AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

16 JULY 2015

PRESENT: Alan Tolhurst OBE (Chair)
Councillor J Blackham (Doncaster MBC), A Bosmans (FODSA),
Councillor J Cox (Doncaster MBC), Councillor R Franklin (Barnsley MBC),
C Harcombe (Head of Aviation Development, Robin Hood Airport),
Parish Councillor N McCarron (Blaxton Parish Council),
Councillor P J O'Connor (Lincolnshire County Council),
County Councillor C Pearson (North Yorkshire County Council),
A Shirt (Committee Secretary), Councillor P Skelding (Nottinghamshire County
Council), K Stow (Head of Marketing and Communications, Robin Hood
Airport), Y D Woodcock and Parish Councillor J Worthington (Cantley with
Branton Parish Council)

Apologies were received from: J Bamford, Councillor R Blake, Councillor
L Bramall, P Cole, D Fell, S Gill, Councillor J Hart, Councillor E Hoddinott,
Councillor B Mordue, K Naylor, M Di Salvatore and Councillor C L Strange

1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the July meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC). An extended welcome went to Yvonne Woodcock, who had previously been a local Doncaster MBC Councillor, Member of the ACC and Chair of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee. The Chair explained that following, Yvonne's retirement from Doncaster MBC back in May 2015, Peel Airports had invited Yvonne to continue to be a member of the ACC, due to her knowledge and being involved with the Airport from the very beginning.

Councillor Joe Blackham (Doncaster MBC) and Councillor Jane Cox (Doncaster MBC) were both welcomed to their first meeting of the ACC.

Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

i) **Mr T Storey OBE**

The Chair announced that, sadly, one of the Committee's longest standing Member, Tony Storey OBE, had died suddenly on 3rd June.

Members recalled that Mr Storey had been the former Headteacher at The Hayfield School in Auckley, Doncaster for 37 years (1971 to 2008). Furthermore, Mr Storey had supported the development of the Finningley airfield and more recently activities at Robin Hood Airport from the very beginning. Mr Storey had

been a great ambassador for the airport and had been awarded a Freeman of The Borough in 2008 for his services to the Doncaster borough.

It was noted that Committee's condolences had been conveyed to Mr Storey's family.

ii) Robin Hood Airports' 10th Birthday Celebration Event

County Councillor Chris Pearson expressed his thanks to the Airport for hosting a superb 10th Birthday celebration event held on 29th April 2015.

K Stow thanked the Committee for their support and attendance at the event.

iii) Peter Nears, Strategic Planning Director, Peel Holdings

The Chair informed the Committee that Peter Nears was currently away from the business due to health issues.

The Committee requested that their best wishes be passed onto Peter for a speedy recovery.

iv) Today's Agenda

The Chair informed the Committee that due to a delay in the construction works for the new arrivals addition to the Terminal Building, it had not been possible to hold today's meeting in the Terminal Building.

It was envisaged that a presentation on 'Passenger Experience' and tour of the new arrival areas would take place at the October meeting.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 APRIL 2015

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee held on 16 April 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

i) Airports Commission Final Report

A Bosmans informed the Committee that Airports Commission had published its Final Report to the Government on 1 July 2015, which set out its recommendations for expanding aviation capacity in the UK.

The Commission had unanimously concluded that the Heathrow Northwest Runway option, in combination with a significant package of measures to address its environmental and community impacts presented the strongest case and was the preferred option. The Commission had also recommended that the Government should support the delivery of this plan in its entirety.

ii) Railway Station Scheme

Members' were informed that discussions were taking place between Peel and the Local Planning Authority regarding the development of a railway station scheme at Robin Hood Airport (within the next Northern and TransPennine Express rail franchises, which were due for renewal in February 2016). If successful, an hourly stopping service would operate from Hull and Lincoln, with links to Doncaster Town Centre railway station.

iii) Leeds East Airport

C Harcombe informed the Committee that there had been a recent announcement that the former RAF Church Fenton base had been sold to an entrepreneur who had renamed the airfield 'Leeds East Airport', with the slogan "Yorkshire's most accessible airport". It was believed that the airfield would target business customers.

It was noted that the Airport would keep a watching brief on the developments at Leeds East Airport.

iv) Vulcan XH558

A Tolhurst reminded the Committee that, sadly this year would be the last flying season for the Vulcan.

5 AIRPORT ACTIVITIES REPORT

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

- The Airport was officially the fastest growing in the North. The official figures showed a 9% rise in passengers over the last twelve months.
- For the first quarter of 2015 passenger figures were up by 30%.
- The Airport were anticipating growth of 15% in the year ahead.
- Throughout summer 2015, the Thomson Zante route, had to date, been the second best sold flight in the UK.
- Thomson had announced that they would be increasing capacity at Robin Hood through the introduction of two new routes during summer 2016 to Larnaca (Cyprus) and Heraklion (Crete).
- Following the tragic terrorist attack in Tunisia on 26 June 2015, the Team at Robin Hood Airport had worked with its airline partners in organising the repatriation flights from Tunisia back to Robin Hood Airport.

On 3rd July 2015, passengers and airport personnel had observed the minute's silence to remember the 38 people who had been killed in Tunisia.

It was noted that Thomas Cook had now ceased its route to Tunisia from Robin Hood.

- The Aviation Development Team would be visiting personnel from Wizz Air during August. In September, Wizz Air personnel would be visiting Robin Hood Airport in order to see the development of the FARRRS link road from the sky.
- Wizz Air had recently launched a new route to Kosice, which commenced on Sunday 7 June.
- Wizz Air would also be launching a new route to Lublin (Poland) commencing in September 2015.
- The Aer Lingus Regional service to Dublin which commenced on 29th May from Robin Hood was currently performing well with regards to passenger numbers. A high level marketing campaign was currently running to attract further passengers.
- Cargo numbers were also up by 65% in the 2015/16 financial year to date. 700 tonnes of cargo had also passed through the airport to date. It was noted that the Airport continued to establish itself as one of the UK's most freight friendly airports.
- Works were currently taking place on the airfield to create a new access road.
- It was anticipated that the long awaited new passenger arrivals areas to the Terminal Building would be in place and operational for the winter period.
- Discussions were currently taking place regarding new retail development opportunities within the Terminal Building.
- The recent changes to the car parking infrastructure were working well.

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that at the June meeting of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee it was raised that there had been a number of complaints received by Auckley Parish Council regarding airport users, either parking their vehicles on estate roads and at the new housing development in Auckley and waiting until they received a call to collect passengers from the Airport.

Parish Councillor Swainston had asked at the meeting if the Airport could consider lengthening the 15 minutes free car parking offer to a longer period of time.

Parish Councillor McCarron informed the Committee that taxi drivers had also been observed waiting on estate roads in and around Blaxton.

C Harcombe indicated that he would raise this issue with Ian Smith. **ACTION: C Harcombe.**

- In terms of targets for next year, it was reported that the Aviation Development Team at Robin Hood would work with airlines to:
 - attract similar routes;
 - develop a route to Amsterdam and hub feeder services;
 - obtain a European Hub feeder; and
 - develop new Summer Sun routes.
- A new brand “Aero send to Yorkshire” had been developed to market the wider site at Robin Hood Airport. This included land and property development, industrial land and business. The aim of the new brand was to sell the region, along with the skills and expertise available from its workforce. A new website and marketing collateral would be developed.
- Phase 1 of the FARRRS link road was expected to become fully operational in early 2016. Funding for Phase 2 of the project had been secured from the Sheffield City Region Investment Fund for strategic infrastructure investment (SCRIF). Phase 2 of the route would see the FARRRS route extended from Bawtry Road to Hurst Lane where it will meet up with the existing airport access road.

It was noted that the link to Warning Tongue Lane had now been removed from Phase 2 of the works. It was understood that this would now be part of Phase 3 works.

The Airport, in partnership with Doncaster MBC would be looking to officially launch the FARRRS link road in early 2016, to highlight partnership working between the public and private sectors.

- Peel had increased the Airport’s marketing budget which had allowed the Marketing Team to work on brand development.
- A dedicated trade micro site for Travel Agents had been launched.

RESOLVED – That C Harcombe and K Stow be thanked for a comprehensive update.

6 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

RESOLVED –

- i) That the Committee notes the following changes of membership on the Airport Consultative Committee:-
 - Doncaster MBC have appointed Councillor Joe Blackham, Councillor Bill Mordue, Councillor Jane Cox, Councillor James Hart and Councillor Rachael Blake (in place of Mayor Roz Jones, Councillor Andrew Bosmans, Councillor Barbara Hoyle, Councillor Hilary McNamee and Councillor Yvonne Woodcock).
 - West Lindsey District Council have appointed Councillor Charles L Strange (in place of Councillor Jeff Summers).

- Bassetlaw District Council have appointed Councillor Jo White (in place of Councillor Bill Barker).
 - Rotherham MBC have appointed Councillor Emma Hoddinott (in place of Councillor Alan Gosling).
- ii) That the Committee notes the following changes of membership on the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee:-
- Doncaster MBC had reappointed Councillor Tony Corden and Councillor Linda Curran.
 - Doncaster MBC have appointed Councillor Jane Cox (in place of Councillor Yvonne Woodcock), Councillor Rachael Blake (in place of Councillor Hilary McNamee) and Councillor James Hart (in place of Councillor Barbara Hoyle).
 - Finningley Parish Council have appointed Parish Councillor Charlotte Clayborn (in place of Parish Councillor Margaret Lindley).

7 KEY POINTS AND OUTCOMES FROM THE UKACCS ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 10-11 JUNE 2015

The Committee noted that Newcastle ACC had developed a new member induction pack which had been well received by Newcastle committee members.

The Committee felt that the development of a member induction pack for new Robin Hood Airport ACC members would be of benefit. A Tolhurst agreed to the suggestion.

RESOLVED – That the Committee notes the key points and outcome from the UKACCS Annual Meeting held on 10 – 11 June 2015.

8 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE NOISE MONITORING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUB-COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 JUNE 2015

RESOLVED – That the draft minutes of the Noise Monitoring and Environmental Sub-Committee held on 11 June 2015 be noted.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) HM Treasury – Discussion Paper on options for supporting English Regional Airport from the impacts of Air Passenger Duty

A Tolhurst informed the Committee that the HM Treasury was undertaking a review in response to concerns expressed by regional airports in England and Wales regarding the potential impacts of air passenger duty (APD) devolution to Scotland and Wales on their business. Specifically, they are concerned that a decision to lower APD rates in Scotland or Wales could draw passengers and airlines away from their airports.

The Government were now reviewing potential options to help mitigate the impacts of the devolution of APD on regional airports. As part of this review, the Government were exploring the following three options in more detail:

1. Devolving APD within England
2. Varying APD rates within England
3. Providing aid to regional airports within England

The discussion paper set out how these options could work, and highlighted key points for consideration.

C Harcombe informed Members that the Airport would be formulating a response to the paper.

ii) Pilgrim Fathers

The Committee noted that discussions continued, however, sadly there had been little progress made.

iii) Assistance from FODSA

K Stow wished to thank FODSA for their assistance with the Hallam Diocese yearly pilgrimage to Lourdes in France.

Thanks were also given to FODSA for the supply of their refreshment stocks following the recent Tunisia repatriation flights.

iv) Thank you

Parish Councillor Worthington thanked the Committee Secretary for keeping the Committee updated with aviation news in between meetings and also for providing the Committee with excellent minutes.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED –

- i) That the next meeting of the Airport Consultative Committee be held on Thursday 15 October 2015 at 10:00 am in the Terminal Building, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster (subject to the new arrivals area being ready);
- ii) That a presentation on 'Passenger Experience' be made at the October meeting; and
- iii) At the conclusion of the meeting there will be a tour of the new arrivals area (if completed).

CHAIR